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JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

New Democrat Leader Carole James, left, takes on Premier Gordon Campbell and Green party Leader Jane Sterk in the first leader's debate Thursday at CKNW in Vancouver. The three debated a number of topics including the economy and the environment.

Leaders face off in debate

First meeting tackles parties' plans, focuses on environment, economy

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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The leaders of British Columbia's three main political parties squared off for the first time on Thursday in a live radio debate focused in large part on the environment and economy.

The 90-minute debate, which was moderated by CKNW radio host Bill Good, gave Green party Leader Jane Sterk her first face-to-face with NDP Leader Carole James, and Liberal Leader Gordon Campbell.

One hot topic was the controversial carbon tax, which James called ineffective and unfair to low-income and rural British Columbians.

Sterk, on the other hand, called James' plan to get rid of the tax for a cap-and-trade system "irresponsible," while Campbell pointed out that the NDP voted against "every single environmental initiative" the Liberals have introduced.

The leaders also debated their parties' plans to deal with homelessness, health care, transportation and the economy.

James promised to raise the minimum wage to $10 an hour from $8, pointing to the 80,000 jobs lost in B.C. since Christmas as proof that Campbell's economic recovery plan has failed.

Campbell, however, said James' plan to raise minimum wage would hurt small businesses and lead to more layoffs, adding that "a job is by far the best social program you can have."

Sterk came to Campbell's defence briefly, saying it was "crazy to blame the premier for the loss of the jobs," but added that finger pointing between the Liberals and NDP is "unhealthy and non-productive."

As for the Green party's fiscal plan, Sterk proposed shifting B.C.'s forestry industry from an industrial to an ecological model, saying that underscoring local production for local markets would boost the economy.

Regional vote on plan to haul garbage to United States

REGION Metro Vancouver directors are voting Friday on a plan that could see the region's trash hauled across the border into the United States.

The region voted last year against replacing the Cache Creek landfill, which closes mid-2010, to focus efforts on waste reduction.

But Surrey Coun. Marvin Hunt, chair of Metro Vancouver's waste committee, said it would take three to five years to develop the infrastructure required to handle all of Metro Vancouver's trash.

Directors will decide Friday whether to apply to B.C.'s environment minister for an amendment allowing Metro Vancouver's municipal trash to be dumped in the U.S.

The amendment would allow for up to 600,000 tonnes of solid waste a year, for five years, to be transported by truck and rail to Roosevelt, Wash., or to Wenatchee, Wash., and then on to Arlington, Ore.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Second round playoff tix on sale Saturday

CANUCKS Tickets for second round Canucks games go on sale Saturday at 10 a.m.

Prices start at $120 with game dates and the opponent yet to be announced.

There is a four-ticket limit in order to accommodate as many fans as possible.

People who are unable to secure tickets should check Ticketmaster regularly as additional tickets may be released within 48 hours of each game day.

KELSEA BLOXAM/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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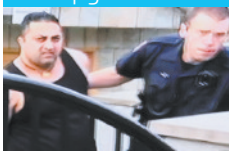
Local pg 2

Alleged crime boss nabbed

Celebrity Buzz pg 31

Slumdog duo in romance?

Movies pg 18
Soloist jarring and powerful

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Street View cars spotted

Google Street View cars have been spotted around the Lower Mainland photographing local streets for the popular search engine's online application. Once the Canadian portion of the program is launched, users will be able to get a 360-degree view of streets across the country. **NEWS1130.COM**

Local

Titans on the court

Professional basketball returns to B.C. on Friday when the International Basketball League's Vancouver Titans take on the Snohomish Explosion at the new Langley Events Centre. The team is 3-1 in its first four games of its inaugural season. The game is the first ticketed event at the new 4,500-seat facility. METRO VANCOUVER

Cops nab alleged crime boss

Barjinder (Bobby) Sanghera facing charges after arrest by Project Rebellion

MINÉ SALKIN
for Metro Vancouver

The police have arrested six suspected members of the Sanghera gang on 69 charges, toppling one of the most violent criminal organizations in Southeast Vancouver, police said Thursday.

A VPD video showed alleged boss Barjinder (Bobby) Singh Sanghera being arrested in front of his home without socks or shoes. He was then escorted into a police van.

Deputy Chief Const. Doug LePard said while Project Rebellion is cracking down on the recent increase in gang-related violence in Metro Vancouver, the VPD and Integrated Gang Task Force would intensify their efforts.

"It's like a game of whack-a-mole," LePard said. "You can't make a difference just by taking them out one at a time."

Chief Const. Jim Chu said the police are taking the gang wars very seriously.

"We will never rest, and we will never give up," he said.

MINÉ SALKIN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Insp. Mike Porteus watches a video of the arrest of alleged gang boss Bobby Sanghera outside his Southeast Vancouver home. The dismantling of the Sanghera crime group marks a milestone for Operation Rebellion's efforts against gang-related violence.

Insp. Mike Porteous described the Sanghera gang as a "family-based group" involved in mid-level drug trafficking.

"They are in conflict with other groups who are vying for drug territory, or retribution," Porteous said.

An associate of Sanghera, 20-year-old John Peter Holler, is still at large. Police are recommending he turn himself in.

Sanghera, 31, faces several charges for assault and possession of restricted firearms.

Project Rebellion began in October of 2008 and has resulted in a total of 167 charges.

Mayor turns to province for housing help

FUNDING Mayor Gregor Robertson called on provincial parties to assist and support Vancouver in its fight for social housing.

Vancouver's 2009 Interim Solutions Strategy pledges to create 550 units of housing. The city has provided $57 million in development of permanent social housing across 14 sites. So far, the province has only assisted with the funding of six of these sites. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

MUSIC B.C. Rock band 54-40 will be playing a special show on Saturday at the Cambie All Access event. Celebrating the completion of the Canada Line, there will be a street-side festival at the intersection of Broadway and Cambie Street from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

REMAINS The B.C. Coroners Service is asking for the public's help in identifying the remains of a man discovered on Sumas Mountain last April. The man, who was dead several weeks before his body was found, was Caucasian and had tattoos on the back of both shoulders. His nose was asymmetrical and two of the fingers on his right hand were slightly deformed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Videos Vancouver police show dramatic footage of the arrest of alleged gang members at **metronews.ca/canada**

Two Langley veterinarians charged with animal cruelty

KELSEA BLOXAM
for Metro Vancouver

HORSES Two Langley veterinarians will appear in Surrey court Friday on charges of animal cruelty after the discovery of six emaciated horses last December.

Mark Marohn and Carol Schoyen-Marohn face charges of two counts each of animal cruelty.

B.C. SPCA senior animal protection officer Eileen Drever said cruelty investigators witnessed a couple allegedly using one of the horses to pull their car from a ditch.

The exhausted horse had to be euthanized at the scene.

"Five more emaciated horses were discovered shortly after with no food and no bedding. They were skin and bones. It was quite upsetting," said Drever.

The horses were surrendered to the B.C. SPCA and have been in foster care since Christmas Eve.

"A nice Christmas present for the horses," said Drever.

An assessment of the horses took place Thursday and details for their adoption will be announced next week.

If convicted, the couple could spend up to five years in jail and a maximum fine of $5,000 and a prohibition on owning animals.

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Blue Rodeo tickets on sale Friday

Tickets to Blue Rodeo's upcoming Vancouver show go on sale Friday. The Toronto-based country rock band will be performing at the Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park on June 5. METRO VANCOUVER

Inquiry hears RCMP are trained Tasers not fatal

BRAIDWOOD RCMP officers are trained that Tasers are not fatal, the Braidwood Inquiry into the death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski heard Thursday.

RCMP use-of-force expert Cpl. Gregg Gillis testified that there is no medical evidence that Tasers cause death or disrupt breathing or the heart, CBC News Online reports.

Taser training warns about injuries like pulled muscles and ligaments or possible stress fractures, he said.

Dziekanski died at Vancouver's airport in October 2007 following a confrontation with four Mounties in which he was stunned multiple times.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

BOTTLE VOTE Vancouver city council has voted in favour of a ban on bottled water in Vancouver municipal buildings, news1130.com reports. The aim is to decrease and eventually eliminate the use of bottled water while promoting the use of tap water. METRO VANCOUVER

Playland's year No. 99

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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There's no surer sign that summer's just around the corner than seeing Playland's iconic wooden rollercoaster fire up its first ride of the season.

The amusement park — one of Vancouver's most popular annual attractions — will open its doors for its 99th year on Saturday morning, and in the meantime, staff members are hard at work attending to finishing touches.

"This is a very busy week but it's also an exciting week," said Laura Ballance, communications director for Playland.

"Right now we're doing last-minute stuff ... Individual ride consultants are coming in to do inspections and they go over (rides) with a fine-tooth comb."

Ballance said the highlight, as always, will be the wooden rollercoaster, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.

"It is really a part of the fabric of this city," she said, adding that it's a pleasure to work in her office and hear shrieks and laughter all day.

"It's a sign of summer, and certainly a tradition for generations (of Lower Mainlanders)."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Staff at Playland jump with joy in front of the wooden rollercoaster on Thursday in anticipation of the park's season opening on Saturday.

Opening

- Around 2,000 people are expected to attend the opening day of Playland on Saturday.
- The park will be open on weekends and holidays until school is out for the summer, then will be open daily until the Labour Day weekend.

Ferrari driver sought for high-speed chase

KELSEA BLOXAM
for Metro Vancouver

PORT MOODY Police are on the hunt for the driver of a red Ferrari convertible who led police on a high-speed chase on the Barnet Highway, Port Moody police said Thursday.

An on-duty officer witnessed the Ferrari travelling eastbound toward Vancouver around 2 p.m. on Tuesday, driving erratically and at dangerous speeds.

Const. Bill Kim said the officer was attempting to catch up with the Ferrari when the cruiser lost control and hit a single-occupant minivan.

"It's still unknown why the cruiser lost control. It may have been an oil slick, we just don't know. It's still under investigation," said Kim.

Both the officer and occupant of the minivan were uninjured, but were taken to hospital as a precaution.

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Killers performing at Thunderbird Arena
Las Vegas post-punk rockers The Killers are performing Friday at UBC's Thunderbird Arena. The band shot to fame in 2004 with their hit single Somebody Told Me and are on tour to promote their third studio album, Day & Age. METRO VANCOUVER

Moms dressing to dazzle at weddings

Trendy mothers look beyond matronly gowns

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Wedding season is nearly upon us, and for every bride hunting for her perfect gown there are likely two mothers doing the same for themselves.

"When you put on the right one, you know," said Patricia Cook, speaking not as the bride but as the mother of the groom. "It's just like finding your perfect wedding dress."

Cook said mothers often put themselves last when it comes to their children, and wedding days are no exception. But she said modern moms have every right to invest in themselves — as she did in her satin-and-chiffon three-quarter-length dress.

"I loved it," Cook said. "I still love it."

Moms today are fashionable and fit, said Karen Karras, manager and buyer for Bryan's Bride, which will have a booth at the Vancouver Wedding and Honeymoon Show on Saturday and Sunday.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Karen Karras, manager of Bryan's Bride at Brentwood Mall, shows off a modern and trendy mother-of-the-bride or groom dress on Thursday.

Karras said mothers needn't settle for a frumpy, matronly dress, adding there are ample options for fashion-forward moms.

"Long (dresses) are coming back, and colour, silks and bright prints (are in fashion)," she said. "When you feel good in what you're wearing, it shows on your face."

Wedding show

- Vancouver's spring Wedding and Honeymoon Show is being held at the Exhibition and Convention Centre on Saturday and Sunday.
- Around 80 vendors and 3,500 visitors are expected to be at the show.

Through the eyes of a celebrity

FILM Vancouver's Documentary Film Festival (DOXA) will equip more than 30 celebrated public figures with single-use cameras to share their creative viewpoints on the world.

Online bids will determine who will own the undeveloped shots from celebrities such as k-os, Matthew Good, George Stroumboulopoulos, Robert Kennedy Jr. and Martin Sheen.

The "Exposed" fundraiser was unveiled at DOXA's launch Thursday at the Media Club.

Joni Cooper

Joni Cooper, DOXA's executive director, said proceeds will fund independent film makers for the 2010 festival.

"We're at a time when documentary films are really hitting home for a lot of people," Cooper said.

DOXA is an annual curated and juried festival. This year, it will be showcasing 75 independent documentaries made by Canadian and international directors. The majority of the films deal with issues of personal, social and political adversity.

"These films really provide help and inspiration to those who watch them," Cooper said.

The 10-day festival and auction begins on May 22.

MINÉ SALKIN/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

38% rent increase upsets West End residents

HOUSING Residents at Seafield Apartments in Vancouver's West End are facing a 38 per cent rent increase following a decision by the Residential Tenancy Office (RTO) Thursday.

Many residents are upset since the increase will make their rent unaffordable, according to New Democrat MLA Spencer Herbert.

The increase will affect nine units at Seafield, with rents soaring as high as $1,833 for apartments without amenities such as dishwashers, balconies, stainless-steel appliances or ensuite laundry.

Residents are considering a petition to have the decision reviewed.

KELSEA BLOXAM/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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Flooded property owners await fate

Owners of flooded property should learn within weeks, rather than months, whether the Manitoba government will offer to buy them out. Emergency Measures Minister Steve Ashton said the province has learned lessons from the aftermath of the flood of 1997. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Kyoto numbers rise

Greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized nations rose by nearly one per cent in 2007, led by strong gains in the United States, official data showed. Carbon emissions from countries signed up to the Kyoto Protocol climate pact edged up by 0.1 per cent in 2007, mainly due to rises in Japan and Canada. "The numbers are ... a bit depressing," said Knut Alfsen, research director at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo, Norway. REUTERS

Ukraine **Jean tours Europe**

YKHALO MARKIV/REUTERS

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko listens to Canadian Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean in Kiev Thursday while visiting a monument dedicated to the mass famine of 1932-33. Jean will go on to Norway following the state visit.

News in brief

IPHONES Apple Inc. didn't win any votes with parents, child advocacy groups or health experts across North America this week by offering a game called Baby Shaker to iPhone customers. Reaction to the game, described by some parents and experts as totally inappropriate and tasteless, was so vociferous that Apple pulled it from its online store on Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PM supports Khadr jailing

Harper stays firm despite court order to press for man's return

Prime Minister Stephen Harper continues to support the U.S. imprisonment of Omar Khadr, despite a federal court ordering him to seek the Toronto-born captive's return from the cells of Guantanamo.

Federal Court Justice James O'Reilly ruled on Thursday that Canada had denied Khadr his constitutional right to a fair trial and violated international law protecting children captured in armed conflict.

"Canada had a duty to protect Mr. Khadr from being subjected to any torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, from being unlawfully detained, and from being locked up for a duration exceeding the shortest appropriate period of time," he wrote.

Highlighting the fact that Khadr was only 15 when shot and captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, O'Reilly concluded that Ottawa must request that the "United States return Mr. Khadr to Canada as soon as practicable."

But when questioned in Commons yesterday about whether he will seek Khadr's return, Harper said his government's position remains the same.

"The facts in our judgment have not changed. We will be looking at the judgment very carefully and obviously considering an appeal," Harper said.

Khadr has been in U.S. custody since he was shot and captured in Afghanistan in July 2002. Now 22 and the only citizen of a western nation still imprisoned, Khadr's fate hangs in the balance as the U.S. Justice Department reviews his case. U.S. President Barack Obama ordered Guantanamo shut by January and the remaining 240 detainees will either be tried elsewhere, repatriated or taken to a third country willing to provide refuge.

NDP leader Jack Layton said a government appeal of the ruling would simply be "procrastinating."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. accusations

- Khadr was one of 20 detainees charged by the Bush administration and accused of conspiring with al-Qaida and throwing a grenade that killed U.S. Delta soldier Christopher Speer. Last week, Khadr's military lawyers and prosecutors made their final appeal to the U.S. Justice committee reviewing Khadr's case.
- Even if Harper were to intercede on Khadr's behalf, the U.S. could still decide to take Khadr to trial in a federal or military court.

Diplomats healthy: Official

KIDNAPPING Two Canadian diplomats sported bushy grey beards but otherwise showed few physical signs of their four-month ordeal during their first public appearance after they were released from captivity.

Robert Fowler and Louis Guay were dressed in suits and were all smiles yesterday during a visit to the presidential palace in Mali to convey their personal thanks to President Amadou Toumani Toure for his country's help in securing their release.

Neither Fowler, who wore dark sunglasses to the indoor event, nor Guay spoke publicly but their brief appearance helped comfort friends and loved ones worried about the effects of their long captivity.

"They appear to be okay physically," a government official said in Ottawa. "We're a little bit concerned that they did endure some mental and psychological abuse, but they're now free, they're safe.

"I think there is going to be a period of recovery. Such an ordeal doesn't just go away the next day after you are free," he said, adding the federal government would ensure they got all the help they needed.

"There's a lot of people who will be there for them to provide any support they may require."

Another source said the pair are in remarkably good health.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ex-PM wanted me quiet: Author

INQUIRY Author William Kaplan said yesterday Brian Mulroney repeatedly tried to stop him from making public that the former prime minister took $300,000 in cash from arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber.

"Mr. Mulroney did not want the story of the cash payment to become public," Kaplan told a public inquiry probing Mulroney's business dealings with Schreiber.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Alberta to test Tasers

Alberta will be testing all of its Tasers used by police after pulling 50 that failed to work properly in independent tests. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Ont. names new medical chief

HEALTH An infectious disease expert who played a key role in the Canadian fight against SARS will take the helm of Ontario's public health system as the province's chief medical officer.

Arlene King

Dr. Arlene King, a pandemic preparedness expert, wants to increase Ontario's ability to respond to unknown and emerging infectious disease threats. Other priority areas for King are mental health issues, chronic disease and injury prevention, she said Thursday.

King received her medical degree from McMaster University, was a family doctor in Alberta and held various positions at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Green pioneer' upbeat

'We can do this,' Ed Begley Jr. says of saving the environment

Ed Begley, Jr. runs his house and car off the solar panels on the roof of his modest California bungalow, cooks beans in a solar oven and pedals to toast his bread in the morning. But he flew in an airplane to speak at both the Ontario Energy Conservation Leadership Summit and Thursday night's kick-off to the Green Living Show.

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Actor and green activist Ed Begley Jr. tours the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in an eco-friendly 2010 Toyota Prius in Toronto Thursday.

Begley is the real thing. He's been an environmentalist for almost 40 years now, long before the red carpet went green and Leonardo DiCaprio (who calls him a "true green pioneer") posed for Vanity Fair on a melting iceberg.

He cycles to Hollywood parties. He took out a loan to buy a wind turbine in 1981. He grows one-quarter of his own food. The white picket fence before his house is made from recycled milk cartons. He's written a book about eco-living and starred in a reality television show called Living with Ed.

Green living isn't just a hobby for Begley, it's an informed passion. He agrees that the science on climate change is daunting, and the planet's prognosis is bleak without an all-out commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. But he remains unabashedly upbeat.

"We can do this," he implores. "We are at a point in history that our children and grandchildren are going to judge us harshly for if we don't do everything we can."

He doesn't expect everyone to get solar panels. Start small, he says, with an energy audit. Maybe add insulation in your home to prevent energy loss. It will save you money, he says, and get you hooked — soon you'll be brewing up all-natural household cleaners. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Uncategorized tree raises hope for new species

A tree that covers a large area of eastern Ethiopia but has only recently been categorized by botanists raises hope for finding new species elsewhere, experts said. The acacia fumosa tree was not "found" for scientific purposes until 2006, most likely because its main habitat is a war zone. REUTERS

World

Bony or beautiful?

Australia's Miss Universe contest was thrown into controversy Thursday, with doctors and dieticians complaining the leading finalist, Sydney model Stephanie Naumoska, left, who is five-foot-11 and weighs 108 pounds, was "skin and bones" and dangerously malnourished. REUTERS

Pakistani forces attacked in area held by Taliban

ISLAMABAD Unidentified gunmen attacked Pakistani paramilitary troops who deployed on Thursday to a district virtually taken over by the Taliban, a day after Washington said Islamabad had abdicated to militants in the region.

Around 100 paramilitary troops were sent to Buner district, not far from Islamabad, police said. Soon after they arrived, militants attacked their convoy, killing a policeman escorting them.

Surging violence across Pakistan and the spread of Taliban influence in the northwest has revived concerns about the stability of the state, which is crucial to U.S. efforts to stabilize Afghanistan.

After failing to quell the Taliban through force, President Asif Ali Zardari last week approved Islamic sharia law in the Swat valley and adjoining areas despite criticism from the West and Pakistani liberal and rights groups. Within days of the imposition of sharia law in Swat, 125 kilometres northwest of Islamabad, militants forced their way into nearby Buner. They said their aim was to push their harsh version of Islam across the country. REUTERS

U.S. 'concerned'

- The United States is "extremely concerned" about the security situation in Pakistan, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Thursday.

Two deadly suicide blasts hit Iraq

Two suicide bombers wearing vests full of explosives blew themselves up in separate attacks on Thursday, killing at least 76 people, including many Iranian pilgrims, in what appeared to be Iraq's bloodiest day in over a year.

Shortly after the two attacks, the authorities in Baghdad said they had arrested the purported leader of an al-Qaida-affiliated insurgent group, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi. His arrest, which has been reported before, could not be confirmed.

The blasts occurred as apprehension grows in Iraq ahead of a pullout by U.S. troops from city centres in June, and after warnings from officials that insurgent groups may try to take advantage of that to launch attacks.

One of the attacks occurred near Muqdadiya, 80 kilometres northeast of Baghdad. The suicide bomber targeted a group of Iranian pilgrims in a crowded roadside restaurant at lunchtime. All but two of the 48 dead were pilgrims. Seventy-seven people were wounded.

The other blast took place in central Baghdad as a group of Iraqi national police were distributing relief supplies to families driven from their homes at the height of the violence.

Twenty-eight people died and 50 were wounded, with at least five children and two Red Crescent workers among the dead. Some witnesses said the bomber was a woman. REUTERS

MOHAMMED AMEEN / REUTERS

A resident looks out from a damaged window after a bomb attack in Baghdad Thursday. A suicide bomber wearing a vest stuffed with explosives blew himself up in a group of police distributing relief supplies in Baghdad, killing at least 28.

UN sending aid team to Sri Lanka

CIVIL WAR UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Thursday he was sending a humanitarian team to Sri Lanka's war zone, where thousands are trapped as troops push to end to a 25-year war with Tamil Tiger rebels.

Ban's decision came after the military said an exodus of 103,000 people from the tiny coastal strip had slowed, four days after troops blew up an earthen barrier the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) built to stop them from escaping.

The safety of the remaining tens of thousands in the 13-square-kilometre area prompted the Security Council to demand the LTTE surrender and Sri Lanka institute another pause to the fighting. REUTERS

Traumatized

- Thousands of people fleeing the war zone are arriving at hospitals with horrific injuries and severe trauma, doctors said. Some are dying in buses on their way to the overcrowded hospital. Many patients are traumatized after seeing loved ones killed in front of them.

Nations seek deal to slow extinctions

SICILY Environment ministers from major rich and developing nations put the final touches on Thursday to an agreement to slow the rate of extinction of species around the world.

Members of the G8 industrial countries and major developing economies discussed a charter aimed at extending a deal to slow biodiversity loss by 2010.

The European Union has set an even tougher goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010, but scientists warn extinctions are gathering pace.

Some experts say extinction rates are running at 1,000 times their natural pace due to man's influence. REUTERS

Fires make climate change worse: Study

FORESTS Scientists now believe fires spur climate change, which in turn makes blazes bigger, more frequent and more damaging to the environment.

Climate experts have known that warmer air would spawn more fires, but scientists say that fires — especially those set by humans to clear forests — influence climate change.

Smoke particles sent into the atmosphere inhibit rainfall, which makes the land drier and encourages more fires to start. REUTERS

News in brief

THAILAND A state of emergency in the capital city of Bangkok will be lifted on Friday, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said, nearly two weeks after he imposed emergency rule to quell violent street protests.

TRADE The Obama administration is committed to concluding long-running world-trade talks and wants to move forward on trade deals with Panama, Colombia and South Korea negotiated by former president George W. Bush, U.S. trade representative Ron Kirk said Thursday. REUTERS

Map to peace
Turkey and Armenia have agreed on a road map to normalize ties after nearly a century of hostility. REUTERS

SIPHIWE SIBEKO/REUTERS

African National Congress supporters celebrate Thursday in Johannesburg, South Africa. Thousands of ANC supporters celebrated with Jacob Zuma as the ruling party took a commanding lead in an election that looked set to make him president.

Zuma nears victory

'Elephant'-like ANC looks set to claim power in South Africa

Thousands of ANC supporters celebrated with Jacob Zuma in South Africa on Thursday as the ruling party took a commanding lead in an election that looked set to make him president.

"This party is an elephant. You cannot actually topple an elephant," Zuma told a sea of cheering supporters clad in the party colours of yellow, green and black at ANC headquarters in central Johannesburg.

Zuma, who danced and sang his trademark Bring Me My Machine Gun anti-apartheid anthem, stressed the ANC was "not yet celebrating victory," although with more than half the votes counted, it was set for a resounding win.

The African National Congress had 67.06 per cent of the votes, according to the latest results, suggesting that despite a reinvigorated opposition challenge, it could recapture the two-thirds majority that gives it the power to shape laws and entrench its hold. REUTERS

Notice of TransLink's Annual General Meeting

The public is invited to attend TransLink's Annual General Meeting, to be held:

Tuesday, May 12, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Firefighters Hall - 6515 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby

TransLink's 2008 Annual Report will be available and there will be reports from the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Office.

A question and answer period will follow. Further details and directions are available at **www.translink.ca** or by calling **604-453-4611.**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Are choices really green?

Stefanie Urbanowicz

Kermit the Frog had it right when he said, "It's not easy being green." We all want to do the right thing for the environment, but it's very confusing. We are constantly bombarded with new "green" choices — compact fluorescent light bulbs, organic food, bio-fuels and even greener packaging. But are these choices really more environmentally friendly?

It's trickier than it seems.

Close examination shows the choices aren't clear, and what we think is green might actually be worse for the environment. For example, organic foods are perceived to offer a better environmental choice — but only if they aren't transported thousands of miles. Fluorescent light bulbs last longer and consume less energy — but they are loaded with toxic mercury lethal to humans and the environment. Bio-fuels may create less air pollution — but they may divert valuable, needed land from food production, straining the world's food supply.

Even the much-promoted reusable grocery bag is a case study in how tricky green can be. Cotton

reusable bags are very fossil fuel intensive and soil depleting. According to the Pesticide Action Network of North America, 25 per cent of the world's insecticides are used in the production of cotton. Perhaps that's why most reusable grocery bags in Canada are made from heavy plastic.

Another not-so-green aspect of reusable bags is most are made in China and shipped here when they could be made in Canada.

Surprisingly, the much-vilified plastic shopping bag may be much better for the environment than people think. Why? First, it's usually made in Canada, eliminating carbon-producing long-distance transport. Second, it's made from clean natural gas produced right here in Canada.

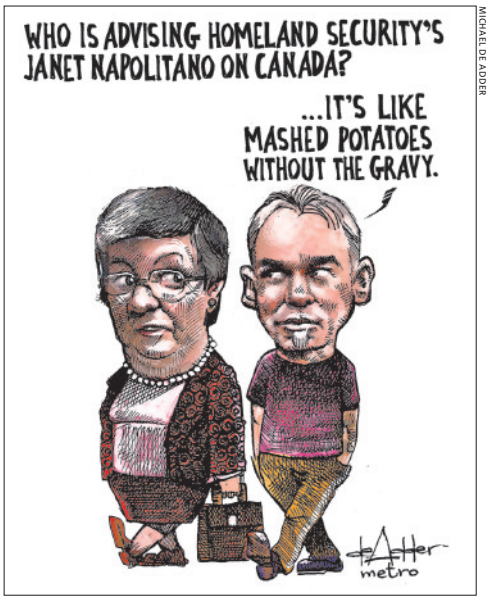
And without plastic bags what will we do with our household garbage? Using your 99-cent reusable bag as a bin liner isn't going to happen, so now you'll buy kitchen catchers containing almost double the amount of plastic of traditional bags you used to get for free. This will cost more and result in more plastic being consumed.

Also what happens to that reusable bag when it tears or the handle breaks? Contrary to what we've been told, reusable grocery bags cannot be recycled in Canada.

Ironically, traditional plastic shopping bags are easily recycled across Ontario in blue bin programs and at participating retailers with a real environmental ethos. These bags are recyclable, and they're remanufactured in Ontario into useful new products like drainage pipes and garden edging — creating much needed manufacturing jobs.

Even Kermit the Frog would be pleased with this green choice.

Stefanie Urbanowicz is a bio-chemical engineer with a degree from the University of Western Ontario. She is registered with the PEO and has worked in the auto parts sector for the past eight years.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Campbell's green strategy looking golden

UrbanCompass

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/sullivan

I thought Gordon Campbell was brave and foolhardy (mostly just foolhardy), when he led B.C. to become the first jurisdiction in North America to introduce a carbon tax.

The tax actually led to a surge in the polls for the otherwise moribund NDP and its leader, Carole James.

But as he campaigns for a third term as B.C.'s premier, I have come to believe that Campbell is a lot smarter than he looks — or looked last year when he introduced yet another gas tax.

I should have known. Gas-guzzling taxpayers were appalled at the jump in the price at the pump, but Campbell immediately started enjoying praise from a most unlikely sector — environmentalists. The David Suzuki Foundation called the tax "a landmark decision in North America as far as government addressing global warming." At the time, it looked like cold consolation, but as the campaign chugs along to May 12, Campbell's strategy to seize and hold the environmental high ground looks golden, never mind just green.

"I have come to believe that Campbell is a lot smarter than he looks."

It got really ugly for poor Carole James last week when Tzeporah Berman, arguably the second most prominent environmentalist in the province behind Saint David Z., publicly repudiated the NDP for "putting politicking before the planet in the most hypocritical fashion." Ouch.

Ms. James didn't help her cause on Earth Day when she invited the media to board a float plane and witness the devastation from run-of-river power projects near Squamish. It would help if the pilot could find the alleged devastation instead of circling around helplessly. The so-called run-of-river controversy deserves a column of its own, but whatever you think, Carole James doesn't look good wasting carbon while engaging in a media stunt that falls flat.

I sympathize. What else is the NDP going to fight this campaign on? The economy? The last time the NDP was in power, Glen Clark stimulated the economy all right. Too bad it was Alberta's, as business after business packed up and moved to the jurisdiction next door with the big smile and the lowest corporate taxes on Earth.

So even though Ms. James is fighting an election against a government that has presided over the biggest economic downtown and job loss in recent times, she has been side-tracked by an issue that has only served to alienate her friends and mystify the media.

And that's exactly where Gordon Campbell wants her to be.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Worth mentioning

Zen and the art of email

STRESS Millions of Americans at this very moment are online, scrolling, reading and typing at their computers.

Many more are receiving and sending emails or text messages via cellphones and BlackBerrys.

But despite all this activity, most of these people are getting very little done, says stress-reduction expert Soren Gordhamer in his book "Wisdom 2.0 — Ancient Secrets for the Creative & Constantly Connected."

While people constantly update their Facebook pages and co-workers sitting just feet apart communicate on Twitter, Gordhamer contends this widespread use of technology is actually making the U.S. less connected and creative than ever.

One of the key messages in the book is there is something missing in the lives of millions of anxious techno-users across the country.

"The something that is missing is not more tools or technologies, but the state of our consciousness," Gordhamer writes. "It is the lack of connection to the place inside us of ease and focus — the creative mind."

But while some people turn to technology to fill a void, Gordhamer says it has also become one of the biggest sources of stress for the average American, with the Internet providing a particular challenge.

But avoiding technology is not the answer, Gordhamer writes. Instead, he presents ways to regain control of it.

Gordhamer, who teaches stress-reduction techniques, suggests readers incorporate Eastern meditative practices to help ease the frantic anxiety produced by high-speed techno-culture.

Using many Zen Buddhist and Sufi parables, the book recommends a "middle way" approach for the modern worker, with a range of activities like breathing exercises and five-minute meditations to increase focus and awareness.

There's even a session on insomnia and a quick guide for "mindfulness" emailing, in which readers are advised to sit upright, take deep breaths and slow the pace of communication, or delay sending the message for a day or two.

REUTERS

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Philip Morris smokers still lighting up
A better-than-expected profit at Marlboro-seller Philip Morris International showed most smokers are still lighting up despite the global slowdown. Cigarettes are viewed as relatively recession-resistant because of their addictive nature and the strong brand loyalty of its customers. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Central bank readies fixes

The Bank of Canada said Thursday it is unlikely to adopt any unconventional policies before June, if at all, to stimulate the slumping economy now that the bank has run out of room to cut interest rates.

At the same time, the central bank provided a framework for use of such measures, which include an expansion of money supply through purchasing financial assets in the market, known as quantitative easing, and rescuing private-sector credit markets, which it calls credit easing.

It spoke of the "need for prudence in the use of these instruments," which have had some success in the United States, Britain and Switzerland.

Obviously concerned about the possibility of overshooting if it did engage unconventional measures, the bank cited "considerable uncertainty with respect to the size and timing of the economy's response to these measures."

The bank provided markets with few clues on the likelihood of ever implementing such measures, the types of securities it might target first or the size of such purchases.

It said it would announce any planned purchases at the bank's scheduled rate announcements, the next one being June 4. It would also announce the size of purchases it would make until the next fixed date.

It said it would only announce new policy measures in between set dates in "exceptional circumstances."

"I agree with the fact that they resisted pressure to go full on quantitative easing because that's not needed in the Canadian context," Scotia Capital economist Derek Holt said. "They're keeping their powder dry." REUTERS

Contraction

- The Bank of Canada projected an annualized 7.3 per cent economic contraction in the first quarter of this year, which is the biggest contraction on record.

Obama pushes for credit card reforms

U.S. President Barack Obama Thursday urged U.S. credit card companies to reform their practices, saying they should stop unfair rate increases and be more transparent and accountable.

Obama has joined a push by lawmakers to rein in credit card practices that his aides have labelled as abusive and aired his concerns at a White House meeting with 13 executives from banks and companies that issue the cards.

The meeting came a day after a House bill to curb credit card fees and limit penalties cleared a key panel.

The legislation would stop credit card issuers from imposing arbitrary interest rate increases and penalties, while halting certain billing practices. A separate version of the bill is under review in the Senate. REUTERS

Business in brief

TRANSPORTATION California's Zero Motorcycles visited Toronto yesterday to launch its Zero S battery-powered motorcycle into the Canadian market, giving urban commuters another way of going electric. The Zero S can drive up to 97 kilometres on a single charge and is capable of reaching 100 kilometres per hour on a lithium-ion battery pack. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NHL names Norris nominees

Nicklas Lidstrom of the Detroit Red Wings, Mike Green of the Washington Capitals and Zdeno Chara of the Boston Bruins are the finalists for the Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenceman, the league announced Thursday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

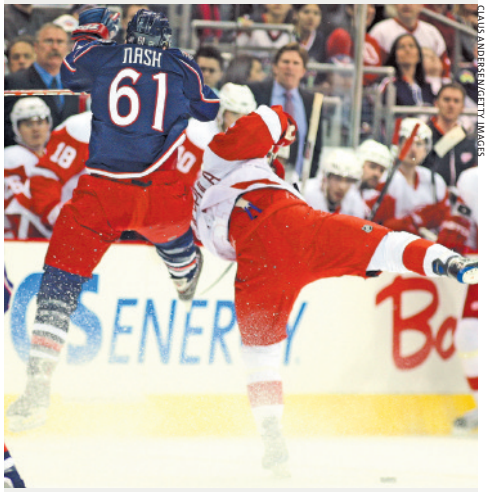
Sports

"This is a good thing for our team. It'll give us some time to work on a lot of things."

Roberto Luongo, rejecting suggestions that the extended break the Canucks have until the second round would cool them off. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

NHL Date with the Wings?



CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Columbus' Rick Nash collides with the Wings' Valtteri Filppula Thursday. Detroit completed the series sweep with a 6-5 win. Vancouver will play Detroit if San Jose defeats Anaheim.

For complete recaps of all of Thursday's NHL and NBA playoff action, visit **metronews.ca/sports**

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Almost everything clicking

That was easy. The Vancouver Canucks couldn't have asked for a more straight-forward, check-in and check-out playoff series than their four-game sweep of the St. Louis Blues in Round 1.

Granted, the series was much closer than "sweep" suggests — all four games were effectively one-goal contests; Game 2 might've ended 3-0, but it was 1-0 midway through the third period and the Canucks added an empty-netter. Besides that, it was 2-1, 3-2 and 3-2, with Game 4, of course, featuring nearly 20 minutes of overtime before Alex Burrows scored.

But it goes into the books as a one-sided 4-0 series, and the Canucks go into the second round.

Simply put, there's plenty of praise to go around after the first sweep in franchise history. And there's no better place to begin than goalie Roberto Luongo, who was phenomenal from start to finish and the main reason the Blues didn't win a game.

The Sedin twins, with Burrows, provided constant pressure and plenty of scoring opportunities, and performed exactly the way coach Alain Vigneault hoped they would.

Kyle Wellwood, it turns out, not only can score, but backcheck, bodycheck and play defence, too. The defence corps, led by 11-year Canucks veteran Mattias Ohlund and fellow Vancouver vet Sami Salo (six seasons), was solid.

With Willie Mitchell, Kevin Bieksa, Alex Edler and Shane O'Brien also back there, Vancouver's blueline has a nice mix of finesse, familiarity and brute force. The fourth line, with bangers Rick Rypien and Darcy Hordichuk, hits harder than a hungry tyee. (Of course, they score about as many goals as a salmon, too. But that's OK.)

TheHockeyNews

Sam McCaig

thehockeynews.com

Secondary scoring? You want secondary scoring? Well, actually, the Canucks could use a little more of that, but it's not as if Pavol Demitra (two assists), Steve Bernier (one goal) and Mason Raymond (eight shots) were invisible.

And then there's Mats. Sundin, that is. Ably replaced by Jannik Hansen while sitting out Games 3 and 4, Sundin will have a week to 10 days to rehab a "lower-body injury" that is most likely a groin problem.

Good news that he gets the time off, but bad news that an old, nagging injury has returned (if it ever went away). Considering Sundin wasn't particularly fleet of foot after coming back in January in the first place, the Canucks might be considering someone else for the second line.

Kyle Wellwood, playoff hero?

The Hockey News thn.com

Kuliga a rarity in the world of pro-football agents

PERRY LEFKO
for Metro Canada

Kristen Kuliga calls herself the Josephine Maguire of National Football League agents.

Similar to the movie character Jerry Maguire, Kuliga began in the high-profile world of representing NFL and CFL players with only one client, eventually landing multiple clients.

Kuliga, who is based out of Boston, launched her career as one of the few women representing NFL players through Doug Flutie in 2001.

She negotiated the $33-million contract he signed with San Diego, and later did his deal in New England and then in broadcasting following his retirement.

Kuliga got her start representing Doug Flutie.

"It's very competitive," she said. "There are about 800 or so certified agents and I think it's something like 20 per cent of the agents represent 80 per cent of the players. I see it not so much that it's more difficult as a female. I see it's more difficult as a small boutique firm out there when you're competing against the big firms.

"As a woman, I can honestly say I've never been treated with disrespect from general managers or scouts."

She began her career providing marketing support for players in 1994, starting with Flutie while he was with the Calgary Stampeders, before branching out on her own and forming K Sports & Entertainment.

"I always say it's the Josephine Maguire (story)," she said. "In the back of my mind, I always wanted to be an agent."

NFL draft weekend

- The Atlanta Falcons acquired tight end Tony Gonzalez from the Kansas City Chiefs Thursday for a second-round pick in 2010.
- Notable NCAA draft-eligible Canadians include '08 Lions pick OL Justin Sorensen (Parksville) of South Carolina and DE Jamaal Westerman (Brampton, Ont.) of Rutgers.
- Western Ontario DL Vaughn Martin has worked out for several NFL teams and has the distinction of being the first CIS underclassman to declare for the NFL draft.
- The NFL draft kicks off Saturday at 1 p.m. (TSN/NFL Network).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.

Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Ghost stories

Pg 16

Jennifer Garner, the star of new romantic comedy Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, discusses nuptials, family and her unexpected work.

movies Pg 18

Robert Downey Jr. steals the spotlight in The Soloist

music Pg 24

New Peter Bjorn and John album shows off darker side

7th heaven Pg 28

Find out why this British designer made our hot list

television Pg 27

Only top TV rating will keep Cowell coming back to Idol

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Jennifer Garner stars opposite Matthew McConaughey in Ghosts of Girlfriends Past.

Garner turns on the laughs

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Movie **feature**

In Jennifer Garner's latest film, Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, she plays maid of honour for a wedding imperiled by her caddish ex, played by Matthew McConaughey. But to hear Garner tell it, she's often the one more likely to wreak havoc on someone else's nuptials.

"I'm usually part of the disaster of a wedding if I'm a bridesmaid, which I've been lucky to be several times," Garner says, smiling sheepishly. "One time I had had my dress altered and hadn't tried it on again, and there was six inches left on the hem," she remembers.

"We had to duct tape it up. You can fix anything with duct tape."

Garner's own wedding to Ben Affleck wasn't so fraught, and the two have become an anomaly in Hollywood: A normal, happy family.

"The rule with marriage is the less you talk about it, the better, as far as I can tell," Garner jokes.

Garner and Affleck recently welcomed their second daughter, Seraphina. Juggling young motherhood and working isn't easy, but Garner counts herself lucky to have the kind of job she does.

"I work really intensely, but in a place where if I need to take a break and feed a baby, they let me, which isn't always the case for women in the corporate world," Garner explains.

But forget being a working mother — Garner is surprised she's working in film at all. "I never expected to be in front of a camera, even when I was studying acting," she says. "I wouldn't even go into the film school at my school. I was only about the stage. I was a total snob."

Luckily she abandoned that snobbishness, and went on to find success in television and film, including her breakthrough roles in the TV series Alias and in the film 13 Going on 30, another romantic comedy.

"I never expected to be in front of a camera, even when I was studying acting. I wouldn't even go into the film school at my school. I was only about the stage. I was a total snob."
Jennifer Garner

And Garner will continue in comedy for the time being, appearing soon in Ricky Gervais' The Invention of Lying, about a world where everyone tells the truth. But working with laugh-happy Gervais proved tricky.

"The worst thing about Ricky as a director is that if something is funny at all, he breaks and laughs and ruins your take," Garner says. "I would say, 'It's your movie. Just go in another room and let me just do it.'"

Surely nothing a little duct tape can't fix, though.

• Ghosts of Girlfriends Past opens in theatres next Friday.

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At a glance
The Soloist ⊕⊕⊕½;
Fighting ⊕⊕

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

X-Men Origins: Wolverine opens the summer blockbuster parade on May 1.

Here come the blockbusters

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

It's hard to believe, but in one week the month of May will be upon us and with it the onset of the summer blockbuster season.

Sure, 2009 has already made some surprising splashes at the box office (I'm looking at you, Paul Blart: Mall Cop), but with such highly-anticipated releases as Terminator Salvation (May 22), the sixth Harry Potter film (July 15) and G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (August 7), summer should ensure some of the year's biggest moneymakers.

Here's a peek at a few of summer's exciting highlights:

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (MAY 1)

Like last year's Iron Man, summer kicks off with a hotly-anticipated comic-book movie. Everyone's favorite mutant, Wolverine, brings Hugh Jackman back into the role that made him a Hollywood star.

STAR TREK (MAY 8)

If you don't know about J.J. Abrams' overhyped reimagining of this sci-fi franchise, then you've been living on the planet Gamma Hydra IV (and if you got that reference, you definitely knew about this remake). This should be one of the biggest hits of 2009.

UP (MAY 29)

Like Wall-E and every other Pixar animated flick before it, this clever comedy about an old man who converts his house into a hot-air balloon will surely send ticket sales skyward.

LAND OF THE LOST (JUNE 5)

An adaptation of the cheesy 1970s Saturday morning TV series, a scientist is sucked through a vortex back to prehistoric times. With Will Ferrell in charge, somehow I suspect it'll be tongue-in-cheek.

A scene from Terminator Salvation.

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (JUNE 26)

Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox and those crazy morphing robots are back in this thrilling sequel. Since the 2007 original earned over $300 million in ticket sales, I'd say this is a safe bet at the box office.

Summer **Preview**

PUBLIC ENEMIES (JULY 1)

Want a guaranteed big-screen hit? Take Johnny Depp, add director Michael Mann (Collateral) and get them together for a movie about legendary bank robber John Dillinger. There you go. Instant hit.

BRÜNO (JULY 10)

Sacha Baron Cohen's hit character Borat comes back in the form of Brüno, a flamboyant designer who taunts everything from high-end fashion designers to gun-toting rednecks.

Early buzz predicts it will be just as provocative and funny as Borat. No word yet on appearances by hairy, naked fat dudes.

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Also opening
Also opening this week is Obsessed. Visit metronews.ca this Sunday, or read Monday's edition of Metro for a review of the film. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Foxx jarring note in Soloist

The Soloist
Director: Joe Wright
Stars: Robert Downey Jr., Jamie Foxx
Classification: PG
Rating: ½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Between its infamous rescheduling out of Oscar season last year and star Robert Downey Jr.'s hilarious diatribe in Tropic Thunder about the perils of playing mentally ill on film, it's hard to watch The Soloist without that little golden guy tapping on your shoulder.

Sure, Jamie Foxx makes a good schizophrenic homeless Juilliard dropout, but an Oscar-worthy one?

While Foxx's job as Nathaniel Ayers checks off all the boxes for a stirring portrayal of mental illness, there's little spark to it. Too much of the effort shows, leaving not so much a character onscreen as Jamie Foxx playing a character. He doesn't disappear into the role so much as show it off.

But Downey quietly steals the movie out from under his co-star. His Steve Lopez is a fantastic mix of world-weary cynicism and innate curiosity, trying to remain calm as the newspaper he works for — and the industry itself — crumbles around him.

Unfortunately, he also suffers the moments meant to play for laughs, which come off as forced and out of place. And the repeated "comic" scenarios that culminate with Downey covered in urine suggest almost a fetish on the part of the filmmakers.

But who knows? It's based on a true story, so maybe Steve Lopez really is that unlucky around urine.

The one aspect of the film that may split audiences is the inclusion of actual Skid Row residents and mentally ill shelterdwellers, playing themselves, making some scenes come off impressively like a documentary.

While putting a real, human face on the issue is laudable and eye-opening, watching Hollywood star Jamie Foxx in full homeless drag sitting among actual homeless people is more than a little jarring and gives the film the unfortunate aftertaste of stunt casting.

But for all its faults, The Soloist is a quietly powerful movie, with a satisfying if subdued conclusion.

• Visit metronews.ca for a trailer of The Soloist, or for local screen times.

Jamie Foxx, left, and Robert Downey Jr. star in The Soloist, directed by Joe Wright.

On the web
• For movie screen times and film trailers and pictures, or to buy tickets, visit metronews.ca/movies.

No knockout

Fighting
Director: Dito Montiel
Stars: Channing Tatum, Terence Howard
Classification: 14A
Rating:

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW You wouldn't assume from its title that Fighting has surprisingly little conflict. I'm not talking about drag-down, split-lip knuckledusters. Oh, there's plenty of that. But in-between those striking sequences, Fighting is flat-out stagnant.

Directed by punk musician-turned-filmmaker Dito Montiel, Fighting tells the story of street-wise Shawn (Channing Tatum), a money-hungry hustler (with a seeming inability to form facial expressions) who discovers the world of underground fist-fighting through a con man named Harvey (Terrence Howard).

Of course, here's where the clichés start adding up: Shawn (inspired by Rocky Balboa perhaps?) charms a single working mom with his dull-headed honesty while the film builds to an obvious championship battle against his nemesis — a former team member from his wrestling days back in Alabama.

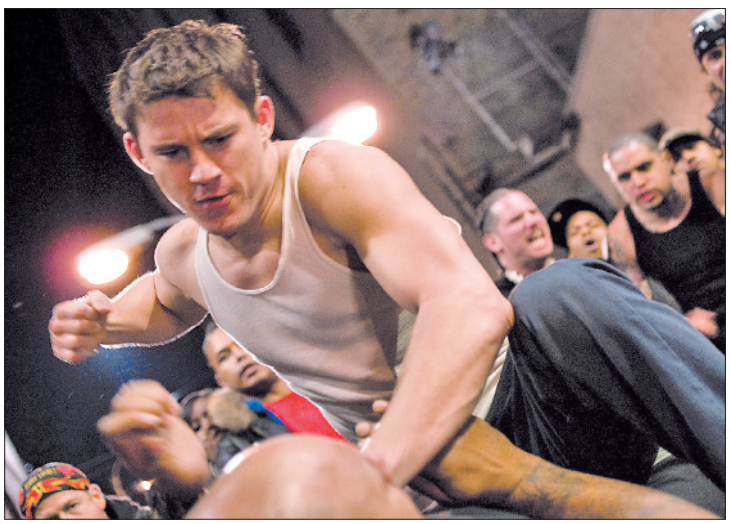
It seems Shawn may be the jealous type.

Which brings me to Fighting's main flaw — motive or lack there of. While Montiel surely has a knack for capturing some compelling combat on film, Fighting doesn't give us enough backstory or a reason to understand why or how Shawn has gotten to this lot in life.

However, where Montiel lacks in establishing purpose, he does counteract with a slightly engaging homage to gritty pre-Giuliani Manhattan.

Accompanied by a cool '70s-era soundtrack, the film feels dirty and the characters call back to an earlier New York.

When one annoying street-lady rambles on about Manhattan's new developments in Harvey's presence, he simply says, "move on, lady." Unfortunately for Montiel, so will movie audiences.


Channing Tatum plays a street-wise hustler in Fighting.

Doc looks at lightning strikes

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

FEATURE When Manufactured Landscapes hit theatres in 2006, the fascinating study of artist Edward Burtynsky was showered with praise and awards. Now, its acclaimed director is hoping lightning will strike twice.

With her latest documentary, Jennifer Baichwal is poised to repeat success for her paradoxical examination on fate and chance in Act of God (in theatres next Friday).

Director Jennifer Baichwal

Exploring the casualties of lightning, Baichwal discovers everyone from a CIA assassin who died (only to be resurrected) to a Cuban community that emphatically ritualizes Shango, the god of lightning.

"When you're dealing with something so ephemeral — a lightning strike can be one-one-thousandth of a second and yet it can carry millions of volts of electricity — there's something about capturing that," said Baichwal. "How do you take a subject that is not normally treated in (an artistic) way and focus on the metaphysical instead of the physical?"

In the case of Act of God, Baichwal and her cinematographer husband, Nick de Pencier, set out across the globe to meet those affected by the random act — if not capture it themselves.

"We just carried the camera around for two years and whenever there was a storm, we would start shooting," laughed Baichwal.

"There was always that question, 'Well, are we both going to die out here in the storm or maybe I should go inside?'"

Surviving their global trek (and capturing some wonderful images along the way), Baichwal edited her footage into an intriguing examination of being touched by something so incredibly random.

Movies

Tarantino comes back to Cannes

Quentin Tarantino returns to Cannes as part of a group of familiar faces at the world's biggest film festival that includes Pedro Almodovar, Ken Loach and New Zealand's Jane Campion.

Tarantino, who won the Palme d'Or for Pulp Fiction in 1994, presents his long-awaited Second World War caper Inglourious Basterds starring Brad Pitt in the main competition line-up announced by festival director Thierry Fremaux on Thursday.

He will be up against previous Cannes winners including Ken Loach, who presents Looking for Eric starring Eric Cantona about a postman looking for life lessons from the former France and Manchester United soccer star.

Campion, the first woman to win the Palme d'Or with the 1993 film The Piano, is showing Bright Star about the 19th century English poet John Keats.

Spanish director Almodovar, who has not won the top prize yet, brings an emotional drama called Broken Embraces, which stars his longtime favorite Penelope Cruz.

The 62nd edition of the festival will open for the first time with an animated feature when Up, a 3-D comedy directed by one of the creators of Toy Story, kicks off proceedings at the opening ceremony on May 13.

The red carpet glamour, an essential component of the festival despite its emphasis on independent arthouse fare, will be supplied by stars including Cantona and Cruz, Monica Bellucci and Brad Pitt.

Fremaux acknowledged that the festival could not ignore the global economic crisis but he brushed aside talk of empty hotel rooms and cost-shy studios cutting back on attendance.

"We are all of us going to see a festival that will not be unaware that the world is in crisis," he told a news conference. "We are going to try to make a festival which continues to be what it is," he said.

"We haven't felt the slightest reluctance on anybody's part, anyone saying 'we have to watch out because of the crisis'. I would say that … more than ever Cannes is the rendezvous for creators and the industry."

The number of past Cannes participants certainly gives a sense of familiarity to the films that will be judged by jury president Isabelle Huppert.

Lars von Trier, who won the Palme d'Or in 2000 for Dancer in the Dark, is back with Antichrist a psychological horror film, while Ang Lee, whose Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon was a hit at Cannes in 2000, shows Taking Woodstock, about the 1960s music festival.

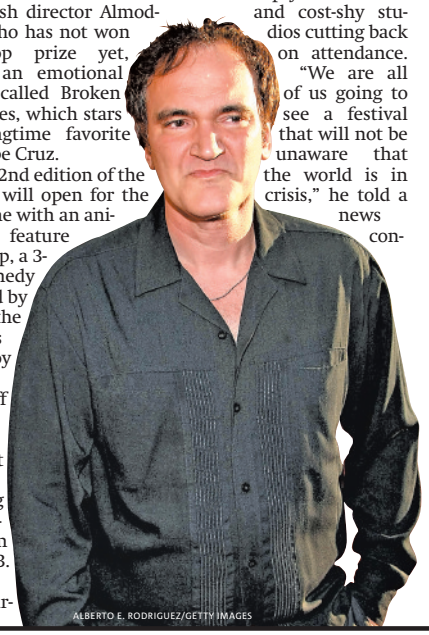
Hong Kong action director Johnnie To brings Vengeance, which, for French audiences at least, will be spiced up by the participation of veteran Gallic rocker Johnny Hallyday.

REUTERS

Films in competition at Cannes

- Pedro Almodovar — Los Abrazos Rotos (Broken Embraces)
- Andrea Arnold — Fish Tank
- Jacques Audiard — Un Prophete (A prophet)
- Marco Bellocchio — Vincere (To win)
- Jane Campion — Bright Star
- Isabel Coixet — Map of the Sounds of Tokyo
- Xavier Giannoli — A L'Origine (At the Beginning)
- Michael Haneke — Das Weisse Band (The White Ribbon)
- Ang Lee — Taking Woodstock
- Ken Loach — Looking for Eric
- Lou Ye — Chun Feng Chen Zui De Ye Wan (Spring Fever)
- Brillante Mendoza — Kinatay
- Gaspar Noe — Enter the Void
- Park Chan-Wook — Bak-Jwi (Thirst)
- Alain Resnais — Les herbes folles (Wild Grass)
- Elia Suleiman — The Time That Remains
- Quentin Tarantino — Inglourious Basterds
- Johnnie To — Vengeance
- Tsai Ming—Liang — Visage (Face)
- Lars von Trier — Antichrist

REUTERS



ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Director Quentin Tarantino brings his latest film, Inglourious Basterds to the Cannes Film Festival.

Marsden to star in Straw Dogs

MOVIES James Marsden will star in the reimagining of the 1971 thriller Straw Dogs that is being written and directed by Rod Lurie.

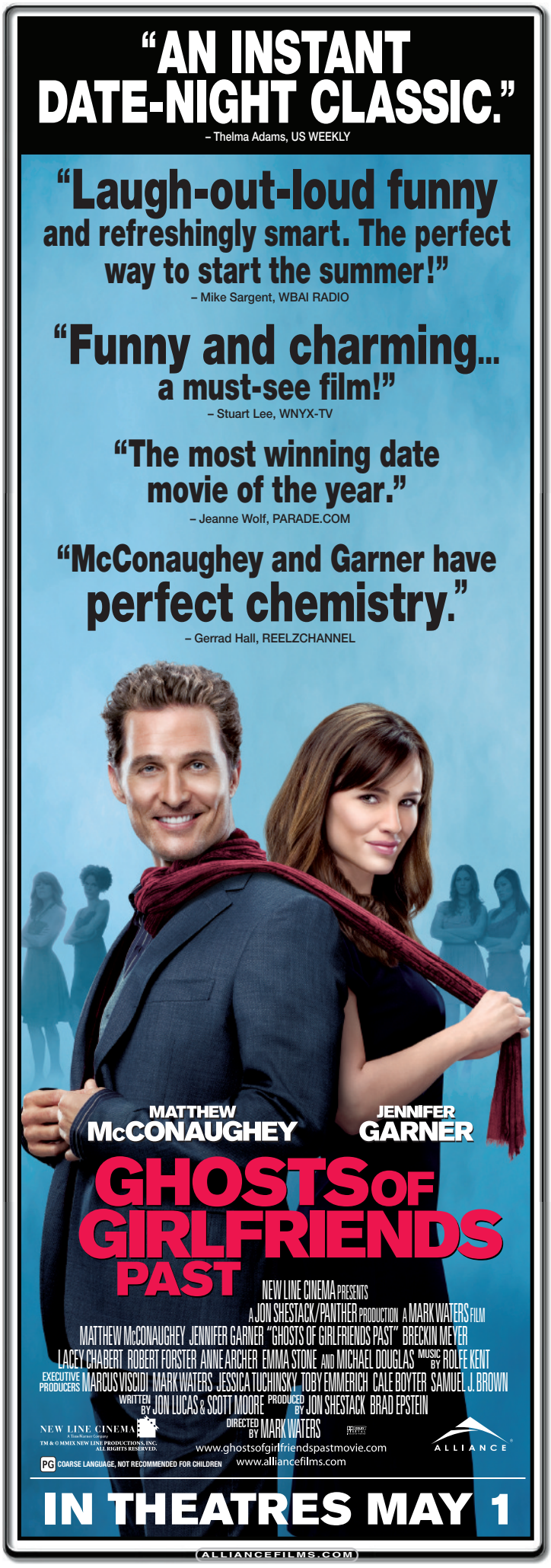
The new Straw Dogs, from Screen Gems, follows Los Angeles screenwriter David Sumner (Marsden), who moves with his wife to her hometown in the deep South. Once there, tensions build in their marriage and old conflicts re-emerge with the locals, leading to a violent confrontation.

The original, co-written and directed by Sam Peckinpah, was set in rural England and starred Dustin Hoffman as Sumner.

Both films are based on the book The Siege of Trencher's Farm by Gordon Williams.

The movie offers a change of pace for Marsden, more known for such light fare as 27 Dresses, Enchanted and Hairspray and comic-book movies like Superman Returns.

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



Two new additions to Iron Man cast

The ever-increasing cast of Iron Man 2 has landed two more names; Kate Mara and Clark Gregg. Mara plays a character who's still under wraps and Gregg returns as S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Phil Coulson. Iron Man 2 is out on May 7, 2010. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Great fiction in the name of truth

Mark Twain understood basing stories on real events wouldn't necessarily mean a tale couldn't have its own flights of fancy.

"Truth is stranger than fiction," he said, "but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; truth isn't."

In simpler terms he means that just because something is far fetched doesn't mean it didn't happen. For example, if a screenwriter came up with the colourful idea that a homeless man, dressed like a superhero was a musical genius who believed Beethoven was the "leader of Los Angeles" you'd scream "Codswallop!" That is until you see the real life account of Nathaniel Ayers, subject of The Soloist, in theatres this week.

What did Ayers, a schizophrenic man with a larger than life personality, think of Jamie Foxx's portrayal of him? He was, said Mr. Ayers, "a good Nathaniel."

Another real life character, John Wojtowicz, who robbed a bank to pay for his lover's sex change operation, earned $7,500 for the movie rights for his outlandish story. The resulting movie, Dog Day Afternoon, only got 30 per cent of the facts right, Wojtowicz said, but he added that "Al Pacino's performance has to be called 'out of sight…' his characterization was flawless."

Of course some movies don't even get 30 per cent of the story right.

Who could forget Morgan Freeman as Joe Clark, Lean on Me's tyrannical high school principal? On screen armed with a bullhorn and determination he led the rowdy students of New Jersey's Eastside High School to their highest test scores ever. It was an inspirational movie, but the real life story isn't quite as stirring. Screenwriters kept the extraordinary aspects of Clark's story — his use of bullhorns in class and penchant for extreme discipline — but inflated his accomplishments. Despite his notable efforts, test scores didn't go up.

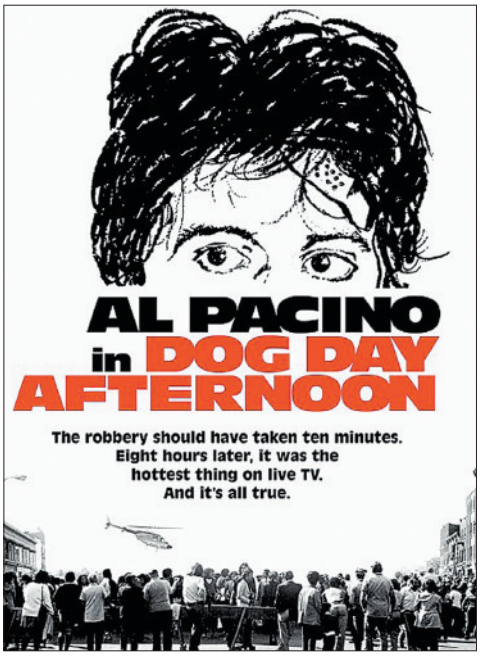
"If an audience believes that something's based on a real event, it gives you permission to do things they might otherwise not accept."
Joel Coen

When asked about the exaggerations in the "based on a true story" account of his life Clark said, "It's entertainment. And the design of entertainment is to make people happy. There's enough sadness in one's life. Once in a while you must extract a reasonable facsimile of glee, as factitious as it may be."

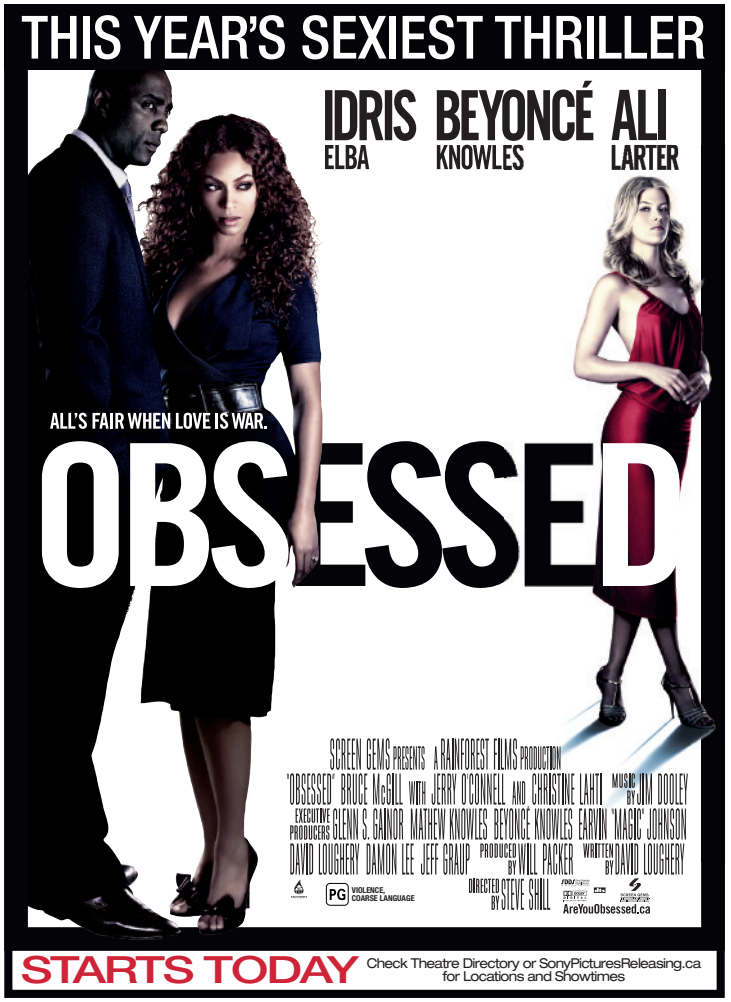
Sometimes, in the "design of entertainment" the words "Based on a True Story" are completely meaningless. In its opening credits Fargo claimed to be a true story, but it's actually not. Why make claims to realism then? "If an audience believes that something's based on a real event," said co-director Joel Coen, "it gives you permission to do things they might otherwise not accept."

Mark Twain would have understood.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.



Dog Day Afternoon was based on the life of John Wojtowicz, who robbed a bank to pay for his lover's sex change operation.



Banks clocks in for new movie
Zack and Miri Make a Porno star Elizabeth Banks will star in and produce the workplace comedy Forever 21. Mike Culbert and Mike Pellettieri wrote the screenplay for the DreamWorks Studios project, and are now seeking a director. REUTERS

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●○ EXCELLENT; ●●●○○ GOOD; ●●○○○ FAIR; ●○○○○ POOR

Coco not your average biopic

Spectacle, a love triangle, heritage settings, bravura acting, witty dialogue, a bittersweet finale: There's something for everyone in Anne Fontaine's Coco Before Chanel, and with the title providing name recognition to die for, her film appears set to storm multiplexes worldwide.

VALENTIN FLAURAUD/REUTERS

Audrey Tautou — pictured at left with director Anne Fontaine — portrays Gabrielle Chanel in her formative years as she transforms herself into fashion revolutionary Coco, in Coco Before Chanel.

The Audrey Tautou-starring film opened Wednesday in France, via Warner Bros., and makes its U.S. bow this fall as a Sony Pictures Classics release.

Not the least of the movie's pleasures is the sense of a keen intelligence marshalling and shaping the material, shunning cliché and sentimentality and avoiding the standard biopic procedure of ticking off the boxes in a celebrity CV.

Fontaine's focus is on Chanel's formative years just before World War I and the transition from the modest, virtually peasant background of her childhood to the world of fashion and haute couture that she came to revolutionize.

The young Gabrielle (Tautou) — or Coco, as she soon became known — meets and moves in with the wealthy racehorse owner Etienne Balsan (Benoit Poelvoorde), leading the life of a courtesan, resenting her dependence, keeping a tight rein on her emotions and all the time observing and learning from the elevated circles in which she finds herself.

She is befriended by another of Balsan's many mistresses, the actress Emilienne (Emmanuelle Devos), who encourages her to develop her talents and strike out on her own. She then finds love in the shape of Arthur "Boy" Capel (the U.S.-born Alessandro Nivola), an English businessman who steals her from under Balsan's nose and finally sets her up in business.

The love story is engagingly done, but Fontaine's core interest is in showing how Coco becomes Chanel, pointing out the markers along the path that led a penniless young woman, with no resources other than her inner strength, to become a key figure in shaping contemporary tastes in style and design.

Tautou fully inhabits the role of Coco, her face a mask as if her character has yet to determine which identity she is to assume, sexually as much as socially. The flamboyant Balsan, by contrast, appears to be all of a piece — Poelvoorde is excellent, stealing many of the scenes he appears in — but Fontaine shows that his force-of-nature persona too is a mask, concealing deeper vulnerabilities.

Coco is the first venture into costume drama for director Fontaine, and her portrayal of a woman making her way in a perilous pre-feminist world is wholly convincing. Alexandre Desplat's score is tasteful and unobtrusive and the period detail impeccable. REUTERS

Marley & Me tops video sales again

VIDEO SALES The hit family feature Marley & Me regained the No. 1 slot on the national home video sales chart during the week ended April 19, while The Day the Earth Stood Still held on to the top spot on the national video rental chart for a second consecutive week.

Marley & Me debuted at No. 1 three weeks ago, then slipped to No. 5 its sophomore week.

The week's only significant new releases were The Spirit at No. 2, and The Reader at No. 3.

The Spirit also snagged the top spot on the Nielsen VideoScan Blu-ray Disc chart — not surprising, given the comic-book flick's high-definition appeal in theatres. REUTERS

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GENE SHALIT TODAY
"THE SOLOIST' IS THRILLING. A courageous and uncompromising film."

JAMIE FOXX ROBERT DOWNEY JR.
THE SOLOIST
PG COARSE LANGUAGE
SoloistMovie.com
BASED ON THE REMARKABLE TRUE STORY
FEATURING ESA-PEKKA SALONEN AND THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS START TODAY! CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR SHOWTIMES
CINEMARK TINSELTOWN 12 | FESTIVAL CINEMAS FIFTH AVENUE | EMPIRE THEATRES ESPLANADE 6 | EMPIRE THEATRES STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD | CRITERION CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK | LANDMARK ABBOTSFORD TOWNE

BUY A TICKET FOR OPENING WEEK AND WE'LL PLANT A TREE IN YOUR HONOR.

"'EARTH' IS RIGHT OUT OF THIS WORLD."
Stephen Cole, GLOBE & MAIL
Disneynature earth
NARRATED BY JAMES EARL JONES
BUY A TICKET PLANT A TREE
EXPERIENCE THE VERY FIRST Disneynature FILM
FOR TICKETS, VISIT www.disney.com/nature OR THE THEATRE BOX OFFICE
For Theatres and Showtimes: Check local listings or visit disney.com/nature

New blood in Nightmare reboot

The upcoming A Nightmare on Elm Street remake has more fresh blood, with newcomer Rooney Mara signed up to play Nancy Thompson in Samuel Bayer's production. A Nightmare On Elm Street is being released in 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Movie morsels

Adventureland

●●●½

REVIEW If, like me, you had a crappy summer job in the 1980s, Adventureland will probably touch a place in your heart. Written and directed by Greg Mottola (Superbad), this comedy follows James (Jesse Eisenberg), an aspiring scholar who is forced into working away his vacation to earn his tuition. Unable to land anything of prominence, he reluctantly takes a gig at Adventureland, a worn-out amusement park that specializes in fetid corn dogs, fixed games, the endless sound of Falco's Rock Me Amadeus.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Coraline

●●●½

REVIEW Based on a popular novel by accomplished author Neil Gaiman, Coraline is, if nothing else, a breath of fresh air in the genre of family fare. Not only is it styled in the classic gothic look mastered by its director Henry Selick in The Nightmare Before Christmas. Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning) is a bored young girl who discovers a mysterious door that leads to alternate universe.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Duplicity

●●●

REVIEW Some films are best tested with a clean slate — that is, if you have no preconceptions about them whatsoever. Duplicity is probably not one of those movies. For instance, you should know that, contrary to the fact Duplicity was written and directed by Tony Gilroy, it's much less pensive than his directorial debut Michael Clayton. In fact, it plays more in tone like a cross between Ocean's Eleven and Mr. & Mrs. Smith.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Fast & Furious

●●●

REVIEW Fast & Furious opens up with an absolutely spectacular (and spectacularly dumb) bit of pre-credits action featuring a failed oil tanker hijacking that climaxes with Vin Diesel gunning it into the side of a spiralling, flaming rig. And that's really all you need to know about this sequel, the fourth in the long-running and popular franchise: It's big, it's loud, it fetishizes its hulking, turtle-faced star and is loaded with revving motors and sleek chrome.

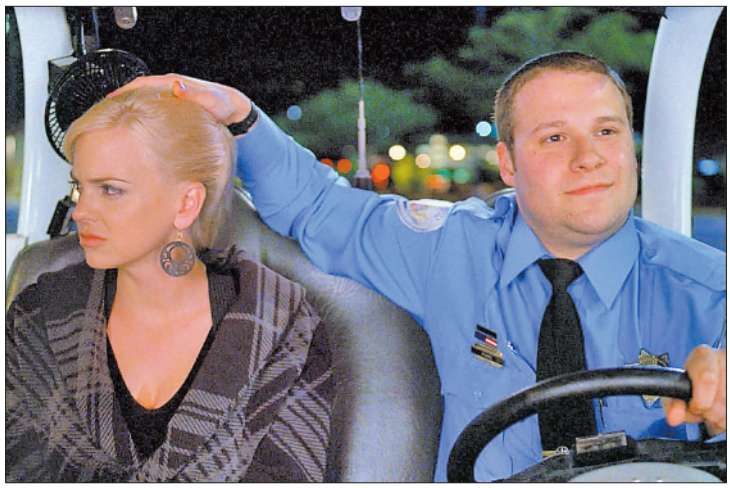
Chris Alexander/Metro Canada

The Haunting in Connecticut

●●

REVIEW Beware movies that tell you that they're based on real events. Chances are the moviemakers aren't convinced you'll believe the picture otherwise. The Haunting in Connecticut, which claims to be based on the true story of the Snedeker family and their encounter with perturbed poltergeists in a home in Southington, Conn., feels about as authentic as House on Haunted Hill.

Kevin Courrier/Metro Canada



Anna Faris and Seth Rogen star in the comedy Observe and Report, now in theatres.

I Love You, Man

●●●½

REVIEW I Love You, Man is a star-filled and unabashed comedy that leaves the audience feeling pleasant whether they like it or not. Normally this type of filmmaking can be irritatingly predictable, but writer/director John Hamburg packed his cast with the right talent and toys with conventions just enough to make audiences remember why the well-worn formulas worked so well in the first place.

Phil Brown/Metro Canada

Knowing

●●●

REVIEW Combining elements of numerology, theology, fatalism and the notion of alien life in what is basically a glorified disaster movie, Knowing accomplishes the improbable combination of giving us way too much and yet not enough. When his son's school unearths a 50-year-old time capsule, troubled professor John Koestler (Nicolas Cage) comes across an odd document scribbled with seemingly random numbers.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

The International

●●½

REVIEW There should be no doubt that The International is a big movie. It's practically the only revealing aspect one might reason from its vague, inconclusive title. Indeed, filmed in four countries across two continents, The International may be a global thriller, but it may also be too sprawling for its own good. Interpol agent Louis Salinger (Clive Owen) has dedicated his career to taking down a powerful international bank that has been secretly dealing in financing terrorism around the world.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Monsters vs. Aliens

●●●●

REVIEW There's something refreshing about a movie with a title that tells you everything you need to know about it. Part Plan 9 from Outer Space, part The Dirty Dozen, Monsters vs. Aliens is all about good, old-fashioned escapism. Just don't pay too close attention to the plot holes and lazy exposition. The movie has an all-star cast, the kind only possible in an animated movie, led by Reese Witherspoon as Susan, a bride-to-be who grows to five stories tall after being walloped by a radioactive meteor on her wedding day.

Ned Erhbar/Metro Canada

Observe and Report

●●½

REVIEW The second mall cop movie this year, Observe has as much in common with Paul Blart: Mall Cop as Home Alone does with Last House on the Left. Most of the laughs come from jarring violence and some truly pervasive language. And while often unsettling, much of the outrageous humour works well, especially Anna Faris' work as the object of Ronnie's misplaced affection. And Rogen disappears into his bipolar, trigger-happy anti-hero.

Ned Ehrbar/Metro Canada

Race to Witch Mountain

●●½

REVIEW There are two things Disney did right with their latest family film Race to Witch Mountain. By re-visiting the popular hit Escape to Witch Mountain, the Mouse House will surely attract many-a-parent who grew up fascinated by the 1975 classic. Second, they hired Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, the former wrestling champ who has begun to establish himself a formidable attraction for kids in hits like The Game Plan.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Watchmen

●●●½

REVIEW Fanatics of Alan Moore's graphic novel Watchmen hold the text in such pious geek reverence that bringing the property to the big screen has been nothing short of intimidating. And yet, finally, here it is in all its big, bloody and ballsy allegorical glory.

Chris Alexander/Metro Canada

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APRIL 24 TO THURS., APRIL 30. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

OMNIMAX THEATRE SCIENCE WORLD
1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Extra Large Shorts (STC) Sat 7:30
Journey Into Amazing Caves (STC) Fri-Thu 1
Roving Mars (G) Fri 11-3 Sat-Sun 11-3-5 Mon-Thu 11-3 Fri 7:30
Van Gogh: Brush With Genius (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2-4 Fri-Sat 8:30

CN IMAX THEATRE
201-999 Canada Place, 604-682-4629

Deep Sea 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-4-6
Space Station 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2-5
U2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 8
Under the Sea 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-3-7

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

State of Play (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Apocalypse Now (STC) A.M. Sat 10
Gomorrah (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-6:50-9:35
The Pool (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30
Sin Nombre (14A) Fri-Thu 2:15-4:40-7:20-9:20
The Soloist (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7-9:30
Sunshine Cleaning (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:10-7:05-9:10
Two Lovers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4-7:10-9:25

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Dragonball: Evolution (PG) Fri 7:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10 Mon-Thu 6:10
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Sat 6:50-9:25 Sun 9:25 Mon-Tue 5:50-8:25
The Haunting in Connecticut (14A) Fri 6:55-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:15-6:55-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:30
He's Just Not That Into You (PG) Fri-Sun 9:20 Mon-Thu 8:20
One Week (STC) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:05-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 6-8:40
Sugar (PG) Sub-Titled Fri 6:45-9:35 Sub-Titled Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:45-9:35 Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 5:45-8:35
Taken (14A) Fri 7:05-9:45 Sat 1:20-4:10-9:45 Sun 1:20-4:10-7:05-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:05-8:45
Watchmen (18A) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 1-4:25-8 Mon-Thu 8

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211

Last Chance Harvey (PG) Fri 9:45 Sat-Sun 3:45-9:45 Mon-Thu 9:45
The Reader (18A) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Fighting (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) DTS Digital Fri 7-9:30 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:30 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5-7:30
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) DTS Digital Fri 6:45-9:15 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:45-9:15 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:30-8

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456

Dirt (STC) Thu 9:15
Tokyo! (STC) Fri-Sat 7-9:10 Mon 7-9:10 Wed 7-9:10
When Life Was Good (STC) Thu 7:30

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Earth (G) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 2-4-7-9 Mon-Thu 4-7-9

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

Confessions of a Shopaholic (G) Wed 1
Opus Arte: Castor & Pollux (Opera) (STC) A.M. Sat 10
Toons For Toddlers (STC) A.M. Sun 10:30
Tulpan (PG) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:45-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Baraka (STC) Mon-Tue 7
Koyaanisqatsi (STC) Mon-Tue 9
Rock 'n' Roll High School (STC) Sat 12
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (STC) Fri 8
subUrbia (STC) Sat

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

17 Again (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7-9:40
Adventureland (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10-6:45-9:20
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri 12:50-3:40-7:40-10:20 Sat 1:45-4:15-7:40-10:20 Sun-Wed 12:50-3:40-7:40-10:20 Thu 12:50-3:40-7:15-9:35
Duplicity (PG) Fri-Wed 12:15-3:20-6:50-9:50 Thu 12:15-3:20-9:50
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:15
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 1-4-7:20-10 Sat-Thu 1-4-7:20-10
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-7:50-10:30
Knowing (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-7:15-10:10
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 10
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7:10-9:30
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799

Coraline 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-7:05-9:30
Earth (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-2:30-4:45-7-9:15
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:10-4:40-7:10-9:40
Hansel & Gretel (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:05
Hunger (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:25-2:50-5:25-7:50-10:15
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5:10-7:35-9:50
Obsessed (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:05-2:40-5:05-7:40-10:20
The Soloist (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-2:05-3:30-4:55-6:20-7:45-9:10-10:35
State of Play (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:1:30-3-4:30-6:05-7:30-9-10:30
Sunshine Cleaning (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-5-7:25-9:55

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour St., 604-683-Film

Derek (STC) Wed 6:30-8
The Godfather, Part III (STC) Fri-Sat 7

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313

State of Play (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:25 Mon-Tue 7-9:25 Wed-Thu 7
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) Thu 12:01

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri 7:25-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:25-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:25-9:40
Earth (G) No Passes Fri 7-9:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7-9:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:15
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri 7:35 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:35 Mon-Thu 7:35
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Obsessed (PG) Fri 7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:55
Opus Arte: Castor & Pollux (Opera) (STC) Sat-Sun 1
The Soloist (PG) Fri 6:50-7:10-9:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-4:15-6:50-7:10-9:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-7:10-9:30-9:50

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

17 Again (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:6:30-9:20 Mon-Tue 6:30-9:20 Wed 9:20 Thu 6:30-9:20
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri 7-10 Sat 1:10-3:40-7:10 Sun 12:45-3:40-7:10 Mon-Thu 7-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 10
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:2:30-4:45-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
State of Play (PG) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:10-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

17 Again (PG) Fri 4:30-7:15-9:45 Sat 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri 4:35-7:20-9:55 Sat 1:40-4:35-7:20-9:55 Sun 1:40-4:35-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 4:20-7:10-9:40 Sat 1:25-4:20-7:10-9:40 Sun 1:25-4:20-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri 4:15-7:05-9:35 Sat 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:35 Sun 1:20-4:15-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri 4:25-6:55-9:30 Sat 1:35-4:25-6:55-9:30 Sun 1:35-4:25-6:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-6:55
State of Play (PG) Fri 4:10-7-9:50 Sat 1:15-4:10-7-9:50 Sun 1:15-4:10-7 Mon-Thu 4:10-7

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

17 Again (PG) Fri-Wed 12-1-2:40-4-5:15-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:15 Thu 12-2:40-4-5:15-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Adventureland (14A) Fri-Thu 3:35-6:50-9:35
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:45-7:35-10:20
Dragonball: Evolution (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40
Earth (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:35-5-7:30-10
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3-6:55-7:40-9:50-10:25
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 11:55-2:30-7:25-10:30 Sat-Thu 11:55-2:30-7:25-10:30
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-1:45-3:40-4:30-6:45-7:10-9:20-9:45
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Wed 1:25-4:25-7:20-10:25 Thu 1:25-7:20-10:25
Knowing (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:35-9:30
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 10
Mini Punjab (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:10
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-5:7:25-9:50
Monsters vs. Aliens: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Thu 12:2:25-4:50-7:15-9:45
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:50-10:40
Obsessed (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-3:45-7:30-10:30 Thu 3:45-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
State of Play (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10
Tera Mera Ki Rishta (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (G) Fri-Sat 12:05-4:10-8:15 Sun 12:05-8:20 Mon-Thu 12:05-4:10-8:15
WWE: Backlash (STC) Sun 5
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes Thu 12

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

17 Again (PG) Fri 5-7-9 Sat-Sun 1-3-5-7-9 Mon-Thu 5-7-9
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Thu 7-9:15
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri 5 Sat-Sun 1-3-5 Mon-Thu 5

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

17 Again (PG) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:30-4:55-7:30-10
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-4:15-7:25-10:15
Earth (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:35-5-7:30-9:50
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:45-6:50-10:10 Thu 12:30-3:45-9:30
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 12:05-4:10-7:20-10:05 Sat-Thu 12:05-4:10-7:20-10:05
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-3:55-6:45-9:40 Sun 12:10-9:40 Mon-Wed 12:10-3:55-6:45-9:40 Thu 12:10-3:55-9:40
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:2:10-4:30-7-9:30
Obsessed (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-4-7:10:15
State of Play (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:50-6:55-9:55
WWE: Backlash (STC) Sun 5
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Adventureland (14A) Fri 7:15 Sat 1:45-7:15 Sun 1:45-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Dragonball: Evolution (PG) Fri 5-7:40-9:50 Sat 1:55-5-7:40-9:50 Sun 1:55-5-7:40 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
Duplicity (PG) Fri-Sat 4:30-9:35 Sun-Thu 7:15
The Haunting in Connecticut (14A) Fri 4:50-7:30-10 Sat 1:50-4:50-7:30-10 Sun 1:50-4:50-7:30 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:30
Knowing (14A) Fri 4:35-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:35-4:35-7:10-9:55 Sun 1:35-4:35-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:10
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri 4:45-7:20-9:30 Sat 1:40-4:45-7:20-9:30 Sun 1:40-4:45-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:20
Observe and Report (18A) Fri 4:55-7:25-9:45 Sat 2-4:55-7:25-9:45 Sun 2-4:55-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:25
Watchmen (18A) Fri 4:40-7:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:50 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

17 Again (PG) Fri 12:15-1:2:45-3:45-5:25-7:7:45-9:50-10:25 Sat 12:15-1:15-2:45-3:45-5:25-7:7:45-9:50-10:25 Sun-Tue 12:15-1:2:45-3:45-5:25-7:7:45-9:50-10:25 Wed 12:15-2:45-3:45-5:25-7:7:45-9:50-10:25 Thu 12:15-1:2:45-3:45-5:25-7:7:45-9:27-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Adventureland (14A) Fri-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:40-10:35
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:40-7:30-10:30
Dragonball: Evolution (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-7:35
Duplicity (PG) Fri-Thu 3:55-7:10-10:10
Earth (G) Fri-Thu 12:2:30-4:50-7:15-9:40
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-1:05-3:05-4:7:10-7:40-10:05-10:30 Sun 12:10-1:05-3:05-7:10-10:05-10:30 Mon-Thu 12:10-1:05-3:05-4:7:10-7:40-10:05-10:30
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 1:45-4:40-7:20-10:20 Sat-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:20-10:20
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Thu 11:50-12:30-2:30-3:30-5-7:7:30-10
The Haunting in Connecticut (14A) Fri-Thu 3:20-10:40
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
Knowing (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:05-10:05
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 10
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:15
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12-1:30-2:30-4-5-6:40-7:20-9:25-9:45
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-7:05-10:30
Obsessed (PG) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:10-6:55-10 Wed 4:10-6:55-10 Thu 1:05-4:10-6:55-10 Wed 1
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20
State of Play (PG) Fri-Thu 1:4:05-7:25-10:25
Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Watchmen (18A) Fri-Thu 9
WWE: Backlash (STC) Sun 5
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Thu 7
Knowing (14A) Fri-Thu 9:05
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Coraline (PG) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 12-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
The Haunting in Connecticut (14A) Fri-Thu 8:40
Hotel for Dogs (G) Sat-Sun 2:30
Knowing (14A) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 2:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Thu 6:35-8:30
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 12-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Race to Witch Mountain (PG) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 2:25-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 8:25 Sat-Sun 12-8:25 Mon-Thu 8:25

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

17 Again (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:10
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Thu 1:3-5:5-6:50-9:35
Earth (G) Fri-Thu 12:2:30-5-7:30-10
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:30-7:20-9:55 Sun 1:15-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:20-9:55
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 12:50-4:10-7:15-9:50 Sat-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:15-9:50
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:55-9:30
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:35-7:05-9:45 Sun 1:10-4:35-9:45 Mon-Tue 1:10-4:35-7:05-9:45 Wed 4:35-7:05-9:45 Thu 1:10-4:35-7:05-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Mini Punjab (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:20-7:50
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:40-4:55-7:20-9:40
Obsessed (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-3:50-7:9:45 Wed 3:50-7:9:45 Thu 1:20-3:50-7:9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
State of Play (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:05-7:10-10:05
Tera Mera Ki Rishta (Punjabi w/e.s.t.) (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:40
WWE: Backlash (STC) Sun 5
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

17 Again (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:15-1:45-4:05-4:40-6:50-7:25-9:35-10 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:15-1:45-4:05-6:50-9:35-10 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 1:15-1:45-4:05-4:40-6:50-7:25-9:35-10 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1-1:45-4:05-4:40-6:50-7:25-9:35-10
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:55-4:50-7:35-10:20
Dragonball: Evolution (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:25-4:20-6:40-9:25
Earth (G) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4-7-9:30 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Thu 1:30-4-7-9:30
Fast & Furious (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:30-10:05
Fighting (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:35-7:15-9:55
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:05-9:50
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40
Obsessed (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-6:55-9:45
The Soloist (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:20-10:10
State of Play (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:10-10:15
WWE: Backlash 2009 (STC) Sun 5
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Stad. Seating Thu 11:59

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1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterionheatres.com

The Soloist (PG) Fri 7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:25
State of Play (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Hwy., 604-531-7456

17 Again (PG) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:10
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Thu 7:20-9:25
Fighting (PG) Fri 7:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:30
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:05 Mon-Thu 7-9:05
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Sat-Sun 2:20

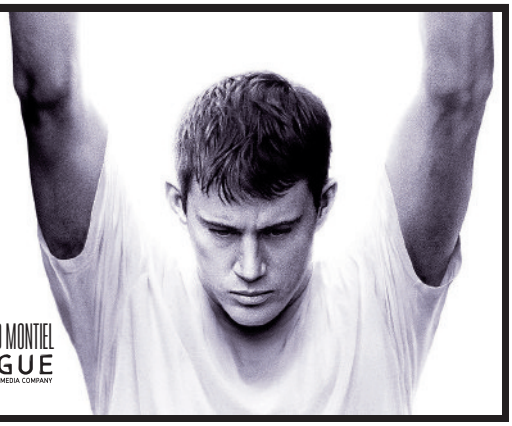
COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

17 Again (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45-1-2:20-3:30-4:55-7-7:35-9:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-4:55-7-7:35-9:50-10:20
Adventureland (14A) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:10-7:45-10:25 Sun 1:15-4:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:45-10:25
Crank: High Voltage (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:15-10:15
Dragonball: Evolution (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-6:50 Mon-Thu 6:50
Duplicity (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-6:55 Mon-Thu 6:55
Earth (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 5-7:30-10
Fast & Furious (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-7:05-7:40-10:05-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:05-7:40-10:05-10:30
Fighting (PG) No Passes Fri 12:35-4:20-7:40-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:35-4:20-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:40-10:20
Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) Fri-Sun 11:30-12:40-2:3:35-4:30-6:35-7:15-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:35-4:30-6:35-7:15-9:20
The Haunting in Connecticut (14A) Fri-Thu 3:40-10:30
I Love You, Man (14A) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:50-7:20-10:10 Mon-Tue 3:50-7:20-10:10 Wed 7:20-10:10 Thu 3:50-7:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Knowing (14A) Fri-Sat 12:05-3:30-7-9:50 Sun 12:05-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:30-7-9:50
Metropolitan Opera: La Sonnambula Encore (STC) Sat 10
Monsters vs. Aliens (G) Fri-Sun 1:25-4 Mon-Thu 4
Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 5-7:30-9:55
Monsters vs. Aliens: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Sun 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7-9:30
Observe and Report (18A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:05-7:25-10:05 Mon-Tue 4:05-7:25-10:05 Wed 4:05-10:05 Thu 4:05-7:25-10:05
Obsessed (PG) Fri 12:15-3:35-7:10-10:10 Sat 1:30-4:15-7:10-10:10 Sun 12:15-3:35-7:10-10:10 Mon-Tue 3:35-7:10-10:10 Wed 7:10-10:10 Thu 3:35-7:10-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
State of Play (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:55-7:10-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:10-10:30
Taken (14A) Fri-Thu 4-9:45
Watchmen (18A) Fri-Thu 9:55
WWE: Backlash (STC) Sun 5
X-Men Origins: Wolverine (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

CHANNING TATUM TERRENCE HOWARD

SOME DREAMS ARE WORTH THE FIGHT.

FIGHTING



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Amazon.ca's bestselling albums

1. Quiet Nights, Diana Krall (left); **2.** Live In London, Leonard Cohen; **3.** Fantasies, Metric; **4.** Sounds Of The Universe, Depeche Mode; **5.** The Essential Leonard Cohen, Leonard Cohen. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

McClelland finds retro-roots voice

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

Melissa McClelland has always been open to new styles of music. What she needed was a focus. She found it through a few months in Nashville and a new home in Hamilton.

Over the years, the Burlington, Ont.-raised singer-songwriter has backed up pop mega-star Sarah McLachlan, sang for flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook, crooned with Vancouver rocker Matthew Good, collaborated with alt-country veterans Blue Rodeo and worked daytime TV with 10-year-old star Daniel Cook.

Her debut solo album, Stranded in Suburbia (2004), was aimed at the pop charts and got plenty of air time on mainstream radio. Her second album, Thumbellina's One Night Stand, (2006) was more of a collage, featuring pop, country, folk and cabaret.

"I was so happy with the way the last album turned out, but it was a transition record. I was trying to find out where I was going with my songwriting." Melissa McClelland

"I was so happy with the way the last album turned out, but it was a transition record," McClelland says. "I was trying to find out where I was going with my songwriting. I was trying out the whole roots thing and it was feeling really good but it hadn't really taken shape yet."

On her new CD, Victoria Day, that focus takes shape in a retro-roots way. Although the 12 tracks on the album are all originals, they have a distinctive sound that resides in the late '50s torch songs of Patsy Cline and Peggy Lee.

See it live

- Melissa McClelland plays the Media Club on Saturday.

McClelland says she absorbed the country roots sound while living in Nashville with her husband/producer Luke Doucet for a few months in 2006.

The key tracks on the CD, however, focus on McClelland's return home from her brief flirtation with Music City. The couple started off living in an apartment in Toronto and then purchased a house in Hamilton. The two-part title track, Victoria Day, follows the move lyrically, starting off where "the devil lives in Christie Pits" and moving to "Steeltown" and "a big old house with too many floors and ghosts for every story we've never told."

The move started out bumpy in the early spring of last year, but was pretty much finished by Victoria Day. Hence the title.

"We moved into a beautiful old house that came with its own set of issues," McClelland says. "There were bats and squirrels living there. The walls were crumbling and everything was falling apart. We put a tremendous amount of work into it. But it's all good now."

SIX SHOOTER RECORDS

Although the 12 tracks on Melissa McClelland's new album Victoria Day are all originals, they have a distinctive sound that resides in the late '50s torch songs of Patsy Cline and Peggy Lee.

Franz Ferdinand gets dub infusion

RECORDING For its second album of 2009, Scottish rock outfit Franz Ferdinand has recorded a dub version of the group's January release.

The nine-song set, Blood, will be released June 1. It makes sense that Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, the group's previous album, would lend itself to a dub treatment. On that set the band worked with Dan Carey, who has produced such artists as Lee (Scratch) Perry and Mad Professor. Speaking to Billboard in November 2008, lead singer Alex Kapranos described Carey as having "a different dynamic than other producers." **REUTERS**

A cure for Writer's Block

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

After reading Peter Bjorn and John's press release for their new album Living Thing, you can't help but feel the guys are a bit frustrated that Young Folks, their hit single with the infectious whistle off 2006's Writer's Block, got as popular as it did.

"What a lot of people don't seem to understand is that we're celebrating our 10th anniversary as a band this year, they think this will be our second album when in reality it's actually our fifth," said lead singer Peter Moren in the release.

When I spoke with him a few weeks before the band's new disc hit shelves, he made it known that while he was appreciative of what that song has done for his career, Young Folks' popularity was a mixed blessing.

"It was 99 per cent helpful," he says on the phone from the group's home base, Stockholm. "But because it was tied into one song like that, we had to make an instrumental album (2008's Seaside Rock). It was therapeutic for us to get into the studio without expectations."

But, while it's true that Seaside Rock is technically the follow-up to Writer's Block, it's Living Thing that people will compare to their hit record. If fans are looking for an album full of sunny, Young Folks-like pop, they're going to be disappointed, mostly because that one song isn't what Peter Bjorn and John are about. The band has always had a dark streak, and it's out in full force here — the trio set their musical focus on spooky percussion and minimalist guitars and bass; in fact, the whole disc consists mostly of just vocals, drums and electro sounds.

However, every song still has the same infectious melodies that made Young Folks a hit, it'll just take fans of that song a while to warm up to these somewhat less accessible tracks. But, if their fans bothered to listen to more than just Writer's Block, they'd understand that Living Thing isn't actually that different from their previous work.

"The album before Writer's Block was a bit more angry and sad," says Moren. "It just felt natural to do something in that vein again."

Moren points out that they didn't push their darker side because of Writer's Block's popularity. "Even if we wouldn't have had that success, we still would have sounded like this now," he says, adding that they've always tried to reinvent their sounds. "The soft songs and melancholy beats are similar, but you need to frame it in a different way."

Of course, many fans won't realize that they've been framing and re-framing their sound for years now, so to the followers who only know Young Folks Moren says "if you're into Writer's Block there are things you can find on other records you'll like too."

"But, if you only like a couple songs," he makes sure to add, "that's perfectly fine too."

Living Thing, the fifth album from Sweden band Peter Bjorn and John, in now available in stores.

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Billboard's top albums

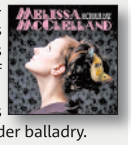
1. Hannah Montana (Miley Cyrus, left): **2.** Forever in a Day, DAY26; **3.** Unstoppable, Rascal Flatts; **4.** Twilight Soundtrack, Various Artist; **5.** NOW 30, Various Artists. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Metro recommends

• **WE ARE THE SAME, THE TRAGICALLY HIP:** Lush string arrangements and guest musicians help the Hip deliver a more expansive, country sound.

• **VICTORIA DAY, MELISSA MCCLELLAND:** McClelland's classic voice perfectly suits her album's fusion of twangy blues, '50s pop and tender balladry.



• **A POSITIVE RAGE, THE HOLD STEADY:** Indie rockers' live recording showcases Springsteen's influence on brawny guitar tunes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Read the latest music stories at: **metronews.ca/music**

Money key to rock reunions

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

GETTY IMAGES

A reunion of The Smiths (frontman Morrissey pictured) would be among rock music's biggest coups.

As you read this, they're just finishing cleaning up after several hundred thousand people who temporarily quintupled the population of Indio, Calif., a small desert city about 180 kilometres east of Los Angeles, for the annual Coachella Music and Arts Festival.

Coachella has become THE place for big-name reunions. In years past, organizers have somehow managed to convince the fractious Rage Against the Machine, the infighting Crowded House and the squabbly Jesus and Mary Chain to put differences aside for the sake of music, art and money. Gobs and gobs of money.

This year, though, gasp-worth reunions didn't materialize. My Bloody Valentine is on the bill, but they've been playing gigs for a year now. Old news. Instead, we saw sets by Paul McCartney and Leonard Cohen.

With almost everyone in the reunion business again this year, who's there left to convince to put all the bad blood aside for a chance to top up the pension plan?

Blur would have been a good get for Coachella, but they're not about to screw up the hysteria that's building toward a series of high-profile appearances that have already been announced for the U.K. this summer. Blink-182? Too busy rehearsing for a summer comeback tour with their friends in Weezer. Seeing the original Specials would have been cool, but arguments with founder Jerry Dammers ("Are you in, mate? Or are you out?") delayed that train. Maybe next year.

So what about next year? A Scottish paper started a rumour that the Stone Roses had already booked a U.K. tour, which included a stop at Coachella. Alas, that was just some wishful thinking during a slow news day.

The Talking Heads? Their name came up, but David Byrne quickly squashed that. Besides, the ex-Heads have evolved so much as musicians, songwriters and performers that none of them can see themselves in big suits to sing Psycho Killer again.

The biggest possible coup? A reunited Smiths, which would be biblical. But if Morrissey, Johnny Marr, Andy Rourke and Mike Joyce were to ever step onstage and play together, the ground would surely open up and swallow all of California, creating a black hole that would in time consume the entire earth. And considering the state is already in danger of cleaving into the Pacific, no one wants to take that chance.

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Oh, Henry!
Henry, Betty's old flame who left her and moved to Arizona, will be back, TVGuide.com has confirmed. Christopher Gorham, the actor who plays Henry, will appear in the May 21 season finale of Ugly Betty. TVGUIDE.COM

Television

Idol must stay No. 1 to keep Cowell

American Idol judge Simon Cowell says he will leave the most popular show on television if it ever slips from the top spot in the ratings.

"The idea that for the next five years, I'd be doing exactly what I've been doing for the past five years ... the thought is just too depressing," Cowell said in a recent interview in his trailer, awaiting a taping of Idol at CBS Television City. "I'd go nuts, bored out of my mind. You have to evolve, you have to change. I like the challenge of launching something new."

With Cowell's deal with Fox expiring at the end of next season, that something new could be a U.S. version of his U.K. singing competition series The X Factor. When Cowell launched Factor three years ago, the show became a massive hit that has since supplanted American Idol predecessor Pop Idol.

"... You have to evolve, you have to change. I like the challenge of launching something new." Simon Cowell

The Factor success was worrisome enough for Fox to forbid Cowell from launching the show in the U.S. while he's under his current Idol deal. But all that could soon change.

Asked if he'd want to stay on Idol if it slips from No. 1 in the ratings, Cowell burst out laughing. "Absolutely not!" he said. "Being No. 1 is verging on an obsession with me. I don't like being No. 2. I don't mind when you start at No. 10 ... and you've got somewhere to go. But if you're at the point you've reached it, of course you want to stay there."

Though the Idol audience has declined over the past few seasons, the show remains far and away the ratings champ. Factor, Cowell noted, has increased its audience every year, which he says suggests the U.S. is ready for another music competition series.

"We have to bring in another music show," he said. "In the U.K., there is more than one type of music show running throughout the year. And I think the same thing could happen here, because for the fall, nothing really happens. It's something we've been thinking about ... I would definitely do it now."

Simon Cowell

"Maybe it'll be X Factor," he teased vaguely. "Maybe it'll be something new." REUTERS

Naked and famous

SCANDAL Media helicopters hovered overhead and photographers camped out in front of Japan's top talent agency yesterday after one of television's cleanest-cut stars was arrested for public indecency.

Tsuyoshi Kusanagi was found drunk and naked in a public park in Tokyo in the early hours of the morning, his agency said in a statement. He was alone and shrieking at the top of his voice, media reports said.

"What's wrong with being naked?" he demanded of a police officer who tried to question him after receiving a noise complaint, Kyodo news agency said.

Kusanagi, 34, shot to fame almost 20 years ago as a member of SMAP, the popular boy band whose five members have gone on to monopolize Japanese TV.

Kusanagi is seen as perhaps the most serious of the five, known for his acting skills and fluency in Korean.

"He has such a clean image," one woman told commercial broadcaster TBS. "He doesn't seem like that kind of person."

Tsuyoshi Kusanagi

But yesterday's incident risks damaging the commercial juggernaut of SMAP. Corporations including Toyota Motor Corp said they were pulling commercials starring Kusanagi.

Kusanagi's agency, Johnny & Associates, a big name in Japanese entertainment, issued an apology.

"We apologize deeply for the trouble and worry caused to everyone, especially his fans," the agency said in a faxed statement, adding that it would make a further announcement on Kusanagi's future career. REUTERS

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metronews.ca/movies

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

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family	251	308	3	CBC	22 Minutes	Laughs	Comedy Fest.	Comedy Fest	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour
family	255	358	6	JOY	E News	The Insider	The E! True Hollywood Story		20/20 A woman suspected of murdering her two husbands.			News (N)	
family	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint "Remote Control"		Spectacle: Elivs		News (N)
family	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	Malcolm-Mid.	Prison Break "Vs" (N) (CC)		(:01) Dollhouse "Haunted"		NUMB3RS "The Fifth Man"		News (N)
family	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Supernanny (CC)		Whistler "Gathering Clouds"		News (N)
family	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Mantracker (CC)		Departures (CC)		Out There	Out There	The List
family	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Hates Chris	The Game (N)	America's Next Top Model		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
family	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Flashpoint "Remote Control"		NUMB3RS "The Fifth Man"		News (N)
family	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Concert-Life	Howie Do It	Dateline NBC (CC)				News (N)
family	288	380	21	ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		20/20 A woman suspected of murdering her two husbands.				News
family	290	382	23	FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Prison Break "Vs" (N) (CC)		(:01) Dollhouse "Haunted"		News (N)	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	25	NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Planet Earth "Deserts"		National
news	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Canucks TV	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
sports	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off-Record	Boxing Friday Night Fights. (Same-day Tape) (CC)				SportsCentre
variety	552	543	25	YTV	Uptown Girls ★★ (2003, Comedy) Brittany Murphy. (CC)				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Family Biz	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
variety	555	545	50	TEL	Batman	Spider-Man	Wolverine	Justice	Futurama	Ultimate Avengers 2: Rise of the Panther			GI Joe
variety	268	354	5	KNO	For King and Empire "Vimy"		Poirot "Double Sin" (N)		Life Begins "From the Past"		The Atomic Cafe ★★★ (1982) (CC)		
variety	575	583	20	CMT	Maternal Instincts ★★ (1996, Suspense) Delta Burke, Beth Broderick.					Candid C.	Maternal Instincts ★★ (1996) Delta Burke.		
variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Whacked"		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: Miami "Recoil" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Vengeance"		CSI: Miami
variety	521	560	34	TLC	Dress	Dress	Wild Weddings (CC)		Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear "Glenda"		What Not
variety	616	522	35	SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Durham County (CC)		Testees	Kenny	Webdreams	Sin Cities	Wife Swap
variety	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Two Weeks Notice		(:10) My Boys	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:40) Good Will Hunting ★★★ (1997) Matt Damon. (CC)			
variety	603	561	52	FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Dinner	Diners
variety	320	621	50	CEN	(6:20) Who Loves the Sun		Traitor ★★★ (2008, Action) Don Cheadle. Premiere. (CC)				The Lazarus Project (2008) Paul Walker.		
variety	581	566	101	MTV	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	MTV Live (N)	Play'd (CC)	Real World-Road Rules		Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus	Made (CC)

SATURDAY — primetime — 4/25/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
family	251	308	3	CBC	NHL Hockey: Western Conference Quarterfinal Game 5 -- Ducks at Sharks					News (CC)	Movie	
family	255	358	6	JOY	Family	E News	Movie (CC)			Show Yours	G-Spot (CC)	News (N)
family	250	321	9	CTV	W-FIVE (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		Southland (CC)	News (N)
family	252	336	11	GTV	ET Canada	Masterminds	Stolen-Sisters		Doc "The Candidate" (CC)		Doc "Pick Your Poison"	News (N)
family	256	389	12	VI	New Canoe	Island Week	The Road to Avonlea		Kool Countdown (CC)		Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Bravo! Fact
family	253	359	13	CITY	Without a Trace (CC)		Murdoch Mysteries		Lucid ★★ (2005, Mystery) Jonas Chernick. (CC)				Role
family	-	-	14	CW	CSI: NY (CC)		Operation Smile		Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: NY (CC)		CSI: Miami
family	289	381	15	CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	Streisand: Live in Concert		CSI: Miami "Raising Caine"		48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		News (N)
family	287	379	16	NBC	Pregame	MLS Soccer San Jose Earthquakes at Seattle Sounders FC.				Backroads	Law & Order "Crimebusters"		News (N)
family	288	380	21	ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ★★★ (2002, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe. (CC)						News
family	290	382	23	FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (N) (PA)	America's Most Wanted		News (N)	Most Wanted	MADtv (N)
news	502	390	25	NW	Doc Zone (N) (CC)		Sat. Report	Weekend	Sat. Report	Mansbridge	Doc Zone (CC)		Sat. Report
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Planet in Peril: Battle Lines				D.L. Hughley-News		Newsroom
sports	407	419	22	RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		BC Poker Championship		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
sports	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey: Conf. Quarterfinal		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Women's Hockey: 2009 Esso Cup -- Midget Champ.				
variety	552	543	25	YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	The Goonies ★★ (1985, Adventure) Sean Astin, Josh Brolin. (CC)					Bleach	Mystery Hnt.
variety	555	545	50	TEL	Hey There, It's Yogi Bear ★★ (1964) Mel Blanc (CC)				Futurama	Chicken	Clone High	Rick & Steve	Moral Orel
variety	268	354	5	KNO	Yellowstone's Hidden Forest		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders A blow from a Celtic spear. (CC)				Jazz
variety	575	583	20	CMT	Fortune's Favour		Grand Ole Opry Live		Hope & Faith	The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search			Ed (CC)
variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Camp Fear"		CSI: Miami "Extreme" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Complications"		CSI: Miami
variety	521	560	34	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours
variety	616	522	35	SHO	Mutant X (CC)		The Perfect Child (2007, Drama) Rebecca Budig. (CC)				X-Men: The Last Stand ★★ (2006) (CC)		
variety	294	650	47	TBS	(6:00) Fun With Dick & Jane		A Knight's Tale ★★ (2001) (PA) Heath Ledger, Mark Addy. (CC)					(:45) Swordfish ★★ (2001)	
variety	603	561	52	FN	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		The F Word		Challenge (CC)		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Nightmares
variety	320	621	50	CEN	Indiana Jones-Kingdom		Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull ★★				The Mist ★★ (2007) Thomas Jane. (CC)		
variety	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	MTV Live	MTV News	After

SUNDAY — primetime — 4/26/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
family	251	308	3	CBC	Geologic Journey (CC)		Victor: The Victor Davis Story (2008) Mark Lutz. (CC)			CBC News: the fifth estate		News (CC)
family	255	358	6	JOY	Mysteries	Mysteries	Extreme Makeover: Home		The Celebrity Apprentice (N) (CC)			News (N)
family	250	321	9	CTV	Star Wars	Degrassi	The Amazing Race 14 (N)		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) The Mentalist (N) (CC)		News (N)
family	252	336	11	GTV	16:9 Picture	Bob & Doug	Simpsons	Sit Down	Family Guy	Amer Dad	Brothers & Sisters "Julia"		News (N)
family	256	389	12	VI	Funniest Home Videos		Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Cold Case "November 22"		Medium (N) (CC)		New Canoe
family	253	359	13	CITY	Two Men	Hates Chris	Kings (CC)		Rock of Love Bus		Crusoe (CC)		Role
family	-	-	14	CW	Jericho "Why We Fight"		Four Weddings and a Funeral ★★★ (1994) Hugh Grant.				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
family	289	381	15	CBS	60 Minutes (CC)		The Amazing Race 14 (N)		Cold Case "November 22"		The Unit "Chaos Theory" (N)		News (N)
family	287	379	16	NBC	Dateline NBC People who may have cash coming to them.				The Celebrity Apprentice (N) (CC)				News (N)
family	288	380	21	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News
family	290	382	23	FOX	Amer Dad	King of Hill	Simpsons	Sit Down	Family Guy	Amer Dad	News (N)	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	25	NW	Who Killed the Electric Car? ★★★ (2006) (CC)				CBC News: Sunday Night		Who Killed the Electric Car? ★★★ (2006)		
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Planet in Peril: Battle Lines				Newsroom		D.L. Hughley
sports	407	419	22	RSP	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
sports	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Midget Hockey 2009 Telus Cup -- National Championship. (CC)					SportsCentre
variety	552	543	25	YTV	Ferris Bueller's Day Off (CC)		SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	In Real Life "E.R." (CC)		Adrenaline	Survive This	Mystery Hnt.
variety	555	545	50	TEL	Jimmy Two	Totally Spies	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch (CC)	Life's a Zoo	Life's a Zoo	Rick & Steve
variety	268	354	5	KNO	Alexander the Great		Inspector Morse "The Settling of the Sun" (CC)				Life Begins "From the Past"		Jazz
variety	575	583	20	CMT	CMA Music Festival		Gone Country	Gone Country	CMA Music Festival: Country's Night to Rock (CC)				Gone Country
variety	615	520	31	A&E	The Sopranos (CC)		The Sopranos (CC)		CSI: Miami "Ambush" (CC)		CSI: Miami "All In" (CC)		The Sopranos
variety	521	560	34	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours
variety	616	522	35	SHO	The Guard "The Big Day"		Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict (2008) Sally Pressman.				Rescue Me "French" (N)		The Guard
variety	294	650	47	TBS	You, Me and Dupree ★★ (2006) Owen Wilson. (CC)				The Ringer ★★ (2005) Johnny Knoxville, Brian Cox. (CC)				Jungle2
variety	603	561	52	FN	Chef Jeff Project (CC)		At the Table	At the Table	Get on Plate	Food	Iron Chef America (CC)		Chef Jeff
variety	320	621	50	CEN	You Don't Mess With the Zohan ★★ (2008, Comedy) (CC)				Baby Mama ★★ (2008, Comedy) Tina Fey, Amy Poehler.				Into the Wild
variety	581	566	101	MTV	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After	Play'd (CC)	Made "Wakeboarder" (CC)		Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	After Show

Panettiere has jewelry stolen

Hayden Panettiere has had $15,000 US worth of jewelry stolen. The Heroes actress reportedly returned from a trip to Australia last week and discovered someone had got into her Los Angeles home and taken the items. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Going Out

Lauper big fan of Boyle

Pop star thinks it would be 'fantastic' if British singer was in a movie

CELEBRITY Cyndi Lauper says it would be "fantastic" if British singing sensation Susan Boyle accepted an offer to be in a planned film starring the U.S. pop singer and actress Tippi Hedren.

Susan Boyle, at 47, became one of the world's hottest celebrities virtually overnight after her rendition of I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent this month. The clip has already been viewed around 50 million times on YouTube.

Lauper and Hedren are due to start work on dramatic comedy Section B, a tale about baby boomers who put their lives on hold to chase their dreams. The film also stars Queen Emily David, a finalist on America's Got Talent.

The film's director Darla Rae has asked Boyle to appear in the film and sing a duet with David.

"That's great, that's fantastic," Lauper said when told by Reuters about the offer to Boyle, a Scottish spinster with untamed hair and a plain-spoken manner.

"I think she's a kick. I really like her," said Lauper.

"She stated very clearly 'I always wanted to sing in front of a large audience' and as soon as she did she said 'thank you' and left," she added.

"She wasn't really interested in what they had to say. She did what she wanted to do and that was sing. That's what wonderful singers are like."

Rae said in a statement on the website of her company Film It Productions, that she has offered Boyle a role in Section B.

"Susan studied at Edinburgh Acting School in the early '90s but was forced to leave and care for her sick mother. I'd love to help her finally realize her dream of being an actress!

"We've even sent offers through the local pub manager where Susan Boyle sings karaoke," Rae said.

Boyle has appeared on national television in the United States and in countless newspaper and Internet articles.

REUTERS

ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Singer Cyndi Lauper performs onstage at the 7th Annual TV Land Awards held at Gibson Amphitheatre on April 19, 2009 in Universal City, Calif. The popstar is a big fan of singing sensation Susan Boyle.

"She stated very clearly 'I always wanted to sing in front of a large audience' and as soon as she did she said 'thank you' and left. She wasn't really interested in what they had to say. She did what she wanted to do and that was sing. That's what wonderful singers are like."
Cyndi Lauper

Examining Media Issues

InDepth

Plane safety:
The hijacking of a Can-Jet flight in Jamaica last week likely has more people thinking about the dangers of air flight, and bringing back remembrances of 9/11. Here are some suggestions for those interested in learning more about hijackings and plane safety:

- The Complete Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook — a quirky guide to some potential serious and not-so-serious situations — offers tips on surviving a possible plane crash (like taking a nonstop flight, if possible). The guide is available online at irreference.com/category/worst-case-scenarios.
- For a better understanding of the in-the-air events on 9/11, rent the Oscar-nominated film United 93, about one of the planes hijacked which crashed in Pennsylvania when passengers foiled the terrorist plot.
- Visit pbs.org to read the transcript and few clips from the American Experience documentary Hijacked, about the Sept. 6, 1970, hijackings of TWA and SwissAir flights.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mix of Six

Sing For the Cure

When: Saturday
Where: Queen Elizabeth Theatre

Sing For the Cure is a cycle of ten songs sung from the standpoint of someone affected by breast cancer. Over 200 singers from various choirs will join the GLASS Youth Choir. Money raised will go toward breast-cancer research.

The Killers

When: Friday
Where: UBC Thunderbird Stadium

The Killers will be onstage. The quartet will perform songs from their latest album, Day and Age.

Playland

When: Saturday
Where: Pacific National Exhibition

One of the most popular attractions in Vancouver will re-open for yet another season. Gates open at 10 a.m. for the general public.

Wedding and Honeymoon Show

When: Saturday and Sunday
Where: Vancouver Trade and Exhibition

Top wedding and honeymoon professionals will transform Vancouver's Trade and Exhibition Centre to highlight everything bridal. The event will include lavish dresses, amazing décor and a highly sought after grand prize.

Earth Run

When: Sunday
Where: Stanley Park

The Earth Run Foundation will be hosting this 5 km run and walk. The aim is to raise awareness while bringing people together to build a sustainable future.

Hot Hot Heat

When: Sunday and Monday
Where: Commodore Ballroom

Vancouver-based Hot Hot Heat makes their way back to Vancouver for two performances.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

KISS Contest

MUSIC Seems like every city wants to rock 'n' roll all night and party every day. Ever since the gods of makeup-rock announced that fans get to decide the stops for their North American fall tour, online votes have been piling up for urban centres. The top four cities so far are Canadian, led by Winnipeg.

Qwitter

WEB Twitter may be the in thing these days, but are you? If you see your online followers (Twitter-speak for friends/admirers) disappearing fast from your network, this application may help you trace which of your 140-character stinkers was their last straw.

Les Miserables

MUSICAL The acclaimed musical is a hot ticket once again thanks to Susan Boyle, whose jaw-dropping rendition of I Dreamed a Dream on Britain's Got Talent wowed the world. The album with the original London cast was No. 21 on iTunes Hot 100 Downloads this week. HMV Canada also reported rise in sales, and some theatre companies are planning to revive the beloved Victor Hugo story.

Recession-themed shows

TV Maybe it will take a little credit crisis to revive the dwindling fortunes of quality television. Recession is the buzzword among networks these days -- ABC is working on Canned, a comedy about a group of friends who get laid off the same day, while Fox is planning Two-Dollar Beer which focuses on tough times in and around Motor City Detroit. More similarly themed shows are in the pipelines.

5 Dan Brown

AUTHOR All signs point to another bumper year for the mega-selling writer. This week, Brown announced that The Lost Symbol, the much-anticipated follow-up to The Da Vinci Code, will be out in September. Also on the cards is Ron Howard's adaptation of Angels & Demons, which promises to be one of the biggest box-office draws of summer.

6 Matthew Williamson's H&M collection

FASHION Now you can get a piece of one of Britain's hottest designers without having to pay designer dollars. Williamson, a favourite of the Hollywood set, is the latest designer to create a capsule collection for the Swedish chain, following such past successes created by Karl Lagerfeld, Viktor & Rolf and Roberto, all of which caused a frenzy with overnight campouts at H&M stores. The collection went on sale Thursday.

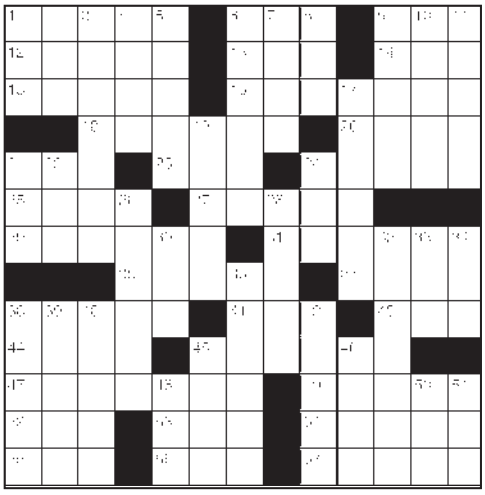
7 Summer movies

FILM The end of the Hollywood dry spell is nigh. Starting next week, the year's biggest studio spectacles will hit theatres. First up is X-Men Origins: Wolverine, starring Hugh Jackman. Next comes the rebooted version of Star Trek ... and the list goes on.

The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2008
Today Sunny 12° / 6°
Saturday Variable 10° / 6°
Sunday Sunny 13° / 6°
You have voted us #1 for best forecasts on TV. Thank you Canada!

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Transfer
6 Decorate Easter eggs
9 Stannum
12 Not just prompt
13 "Alley —"
14 Pindaric piece
15 Pipe type
16 Chirp
18 Clan-related
20 Peruse
21 However
23 Smoke, for short
24 With fervor
25 Twist out of shape
27 Confuse
29 "Rabbit ears"
31 Unparalleled
35 Frock
37 Ringlet
38 Proverb
41 Turner or Williams
43 Squid squirt
44 Mysterious character
45 Disinclined to brag
47 Sparkle
49 Theme
52 Einstein's birthplace
53 $ dispenser
54 Met show
55 Storm center
56 Kid's question
57 Vestige

Crossword down

1 Ball VIP
2 Corn spike
3 Animal
4 Winglike
5 Hammerstein's contribution
6 Senility
7 Long, mournful wail
8 Beside (Pref.)
9 Carried
10 Perfect
11 Square
17 Catastrophic
19 Authoritative text
21 Merit-badge org.
22 Islander's strings
24 Calendar abbr.
26 Thingie
28 Amalgamated
30 Exist
32 Not one to see it through
33 Grecian vessel
34 Wapiti
36 Tempestuous
38 Battle verbally
39 In a boring way
40 "Pokemon" genre
42 Showroom samples
45 Part of SMU (Abbr.)
46 Erstwhile frosh
48 Spotted, to Tweety
50 Rage
51 Craze

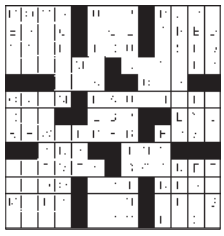
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

5	8					3		9
	6	1	9				8	4
3			7	8			6	
			3		4	8	9	
		3		9		6		
	1	5	8		6			
	3			2	7			6
4	7				8	1	5	
2		6					3	8

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



1	3	7	8	9	2	6	4	5
4	2	5	3	6	1	7	8	9
6	9	8	4	7	5	1	2	3
8	1	9	2	5	6	4	3	7
7	6	2	1	4	3	9	5	8
5	4	3	7	8	9	2	6	1
9	7	4	6	3	8	5	1	2
3	5	1	9	2	4	8	7	6
2	8	6	5	1	7	3	9	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Tuna and Tomato Pizzas

INGREDIENTS:
3 tsp (15 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
1 onion, minced
1 can (14 oz/398 ml) crushed tomatoes
1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried oregano
Pinch sugar
2 thick pizza crusts
2 tbsp (25 ml) tomato paste
1 can (6 oz/170 g) water-packed tuna, drained and flaked into chunks
4 tsp (20 ml) capers, rinsed
8 pitted black olives, sliced
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper
Fresh basil leaves

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C). Heat 1 tsp (5 ml) oil in small pot over medium heat. Add onion and sauté until soft, 4 minutes. Add tomatoes, oregano, sugar and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and leave to simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Put pizza crusts on 2 baking sheets. Spread 1 tbsp (15 ml) tomato paste over each crust. Spoon tomato sauce over pizzas, then add tuna. Sprinkle with capers and olives. Drizzle remaining 2 tsp (10 ml) of olive oil over tops.
3. Bake pizzas until crusts are crisp and golden, 10 minutes, or following package directions. Sprinkle with torn basil leaves and serve at once.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Excellent advice helps to clear your mind. Uncertainty is exposed. An old favourite finds the consolation of love.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A simple task is counter-productive. A heartless tale is an amusing revelation. There's a good reason for someone's hostility.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Recover from heartache by asking for help. You'll stumble over foolish beliefs. An old lesson now has special meaning.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Consideration for others causes a risk to arise. Responsibilities slow you down to a crawl. There are twinges of guilt over a tempting offer.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
A stranger's defeat won't drain your energy. A chat results from a wise decision. A false alarm defines incompetence.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Be especially careful with neighbours. An honourable person is checked for imperfection. Renewal comes from uninhibited career goals.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A misunderstanding focuses on wasting time. A friend might not sidestep a feud. You'll inspire others and help them to grow.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Satisfaction comes from trusting your instincts. Your hopes are raised by reaching an agreement. Someone's whimsy gets in the way.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Exceptional evidence of past issues is presented. Drag yourself away from a technical conversation. Be very clear about your distress.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A fearful friend feels sorry for himself. Don't encourage anyone to avoid work. You can attain power by giving assistance.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Rise above panic and have new hope for the future. Ask to be released from obligations. A companion's blunder goes unpunished.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Investigate an ally's tenacity. A mark of respect is hard to find. Make it easy for others to talk to you.

Bunk Bed $598
was $855
10% OFF
Any mattress with purchase of this bunk!

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Fox shows his misanthropic side

Michael J. Fox jumped at the chance to ditch his "Mr. Nice Guy" reputation as a bitter, drug-addicted character on TV show Rescue Me. "People don't often think of me as a bitter misanthrope ... it's too fun to pass up," he says. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Gavin's gay lover?

RUMOUR Gavin Rossdale had a five-year relationship with a male pop star, female-first.co.uk alleges.

The former Bush singer — who has two sons with wife Gwen Stefani and a daughter from a previous relationship — allegedly had a long romance with androgynous British singer Marilyn in the '80s.

Marilyn, 46, said: "He was the love of my life. We were together five years, but it felt like 40."

In 1995, singer Boy George — a close friend of Marilyn — alleged Rossdale, 43, and Marilyn had had an affair in his autobiography Take It Like A Man, but both men denied the claims.

However, Marilyn — whose real name is Peter Robinson — insists he lied then in order to protect Rossdale's burgeoning career.

The singer added to In Touch Weekly magazine: "He was just becoming successful in America. I agreed to lie against every grain of my being."

METRO NEW SERVICES

Madonna hires crew for Mercy

KIDS Her initial attempt to adopt three-year-old Malawian Mercy James may have failed, but Madonna has made it clear she isn't giving up. In fact, she's even hired a nanny and a nurse to look after the young girl while her lawyers work out the adoption appeal, according to Hollyscoop.

"As Mercy's legal guardian, I authorize where she goes," orphanage director Anne Chikhwaza explains. "She is staying with Madonna's people as a visitor. There is nothing wrong with that."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Heidi hopes fourth baby is a girl

BABY Heidi Klum is expecting her fourth child with husband Seal — and she's hoping it's a girl. The couple already has two sons, Johan and Henry, and a daughter, Leni. "We'd be happy with either, but it would be a lie if I said we weren't all hoping for a little girl — especially Leni, because she would love to have a little sister," Klum tells Us Weekly.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jennifer's love triangle

RELATIONSHIP Jennifer Love Hewitt was so focused on planning her wedding to Scottish actor Ross McCall she didn't realize she was falling for someone else, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

When the actress and McCall split at the end of last year, Hewitt fell into the arms of Ghost Whisperer co-star Jamie Kennedy — and now she can't believe she didn't consider a relationship with her old friend before.

Speaking candidly about her new romance on Wednesday's Ellen DeGeneres, she said, "Breakups are awful, they're really painful, they really hurt, they really suck on lots of levels but what I think is great about life is the universe always brings you something really beautiful and great afterwards — and that's kinda where I am now, so it's OK."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Salma's second wedding

MARRIAGE Newlywed Salma Hayak and her husband, Francois-Henri Pinault, who were married at city hall in Paris on Valentine's Day, are finally throwing a real wedding ceremony for friends — this weekend.

The couple will retie the knot in Venice, Italy, in front of friends including Javiar Bardem and Penélope Cruz, according to E! News.

But it won't be a big to-do, despite recent rumours Hayak was going to spend $2 million US on the ceremony.

"I think spending millions of dollars on a wedding is ridiculous and it has never been my dream," she has said. "I would never do that."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tensions run high on the Idol set

PEOPLE Tensions are high backstage at American Idol — and not between the contestants. New judge Kara DioGuardi is reportedly fed up with the way she's being treated by Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson, and this week's performance show was apparently particularly bad.

"She was so upset, she couldn't hold it back," a source tells OK! Magazine. "Kara was telling everybody, 'I don't care anymore. I'm going to quit!' She didn't sign up to be anybody's punching bag. That's what she feels she's become."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Kim's new nickname
Kim Kardashian has a new nickname: Zorro. "Poor little Kimmie laid out too long and got a major sunglasses tan! It was SO funny though!" her sis Khloe blogs. "We called her Zorro the rest of the trip hahahaha." USMAGAZINE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Angie sticks up for anti-gay marriage beauty queen

POLITICS Republican actress Angie Harmon is standing up for Miss California Carrie Prejean, who has been criticized for saying on Sunday's Miss USA pageant that she does not support gay marriage, usmagazine.com reports.

"If someone is standing up for how they feel and talking about their beliefs, why are we punishing her for that?" Harmon, 36, told usmagazine.com. "I just don't understand how we've gotten to a place in America where, if someone doesn't agree with everyone, then they are punished for it."

Prejean, 21, insists her controversial answer "cost" her the crown. (Shanna Moakler, director of the Miss California USA pageant, denies this.)

Said Harmon, "I heard something in the car on the way over here, and it was like, 'She wasn't punished,' but she lost because of it. So she was punished.

"I find it incredibly disappointing," she went on. "I mean, that is what she thinks. That's what she believes. I'm not going to punish anyone for that. I don't know if she lost because of it, but if she did, I think that is very disappointing. In the Miss USA, she can't stand up for what she thinks or what she believes in? I don't understand that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Fred Durst the 'happiest man alive'

ENGAGEMENT Limp Bizkit frontman Fred Durst is thrilled that his band is getting back together, but he's even more excited that his girlfriend agreed to marry him. "Great news — I'm getting married to Esther in July," the singer announced on his Twitter. "It's on! Break out the bubbly!" Durst also posted a photo of the engagement ring, writing that he is "the happiest man alive."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pink and Carey reunite

RECONCILIATION Pink and Carey Hart are determined to make their marriage last forever, and want to show it by renewing their wedding vows, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple, who recently reunited after separating in February 2008, is rumoured to be planning a small beachside ceremony for friends and family to show them they are committed to staying together.

METRO NEW SERVICES

LiLo sets breakup record straight

PEOPLE Tired of letting the tabloids speak for her, Lindsay Lohan stopped by Ellen DeGeneres' talk show to chat about her split from Samantha Ronson.

Lohan claims the breakup came "out of nowhere" and that Ronson caught her completely off-guard.

"I had no idea what was going on. I just hadn't seen her in, like, a week. She, like, disappeared," Lohan said. But she's hopeful the split isn't final. "I really care about Samantha and we'll see what happens," she says.

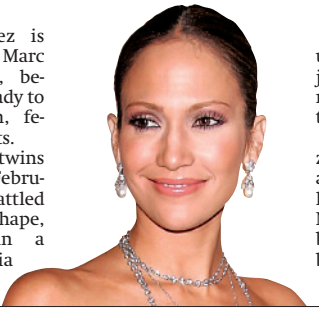
"Maybe when we're fully in the right place. And I love her."

METRO WORLD NEWS

J.Lo to Marc: No babies!

FAMILY Jennifer Lopez is fighting off husband Marc Anthony's advances, because she's not yet ready to have more children, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Since welcoming twins Max and Emme in February 2008, Lopez has battled hard to get back in shape, even competing in a triathlon in California last September.



She's not ready to give up her buff post-baby body just yet — despite Anthony's desperation to expand their brood.

Lopez tells People magazine, "Marc is like, 'What are we waiting for?' I'm like, 'We gotta wait 'til Mum's ready. I'm in the best shape of my life. And best mindset."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Truth to Slumdog screen romance?

RUMOUR Slumdog Millionaire stars Dev Patel and Freida Pinto — who play lovers on-screen, and in real life have denied reports that they're an item — were spotted kissing during a romantic night out.

Patel was visiting Pinto in Israel, where she's shooting her latest film, according to Britain's Daily Star.

And their co-star, Anil Kapoor, claims something is up between the two. "When I meet them, I feel there is something happening," he said recently. "They definitely make a great pair."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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